

**HISTORIC DESIGNED
LANDSCAPES
OF ESSEX**

HANDBOOK

PART 5

**The City of
CHELMSFORD**



ESSEX GARDENS TRUST 2012

HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPES OF ESSEX

HANDBOOK

**An Inventory of the Designed Landscapes
identified as being of Local Importance in the**

City of Chelmsford

**including sites on the
ENGLISH HERITAGE
Register of Parks and Gardens of Special
Historic Interest in England**

**Compiled by the Research Group of the
Essex Gardens Trust**

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EDITORIAL PREFACE

The Essex Gardens Trust is assembling a series of Inventories of historic designed parks and gardens in the county which still contain sufficient historic elements and integrity to make a valuable contribution to the Essex landscape and to the county's heritage. They were not of sufficient merit to have been included in the English Heritage register, but are ones that the Trust considers to be of local importance, either due to their quality or rarity, or to their association with a noted designer or horticulturalist. The Inventory is based on district council areas, and it is hoped that it will prove useful to planning authorities when making decisions which may affect the sites described, or their setting.

An initial selection of approximately eighty-five possible sites in the City of Chelmsford was made from maps (principally the 1777 Chapman and André map of the County of Essex, and the relevant late nineteenth century 6" and 25" ordnance survey maps). Selection for inclusion in the Inventory was based both on archive research and site visits, though this approach is not without its shortcomings. Not infrequently no relevant archives can be found. In some cases the owner has been unwilling to allow the researcher to visit in order to make an evaluation, and it is inevitable that some important sites will have been overlooked. Some, of course, have been lost to development.

The format of the English Heritage *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Interest* has been used as a model. Each site has a text description (based on original research and - usually - a site visit), with images, historic maps and a modern boundary map for each site. The English Heritage registered sites in the City of Chelmsford have been included without alteration, but with the addition of illustrations and an enlarged site map. We are very grateful to English Heritage for their permission to do this.

As with any collaborative publication, Essex Gardens Trust has received invaluable support in the preparation of this Inventory from many individuals and organisations, and this is gratefully acknowledged. We would like to thank the individual researchers without whose industry, enthusiasm and perseverance nothing could have been achieved. We are also very indebted to those owners who welcomed our researchers to their properties and often went to considerable trouble on our behalf. The Essex Gardens Trust is particularly indebted to the Essex Heritage Fund for their generous grant which enabled the researchers to be guided with professional help. The Trust also thanks Dr Twigs Way for providing that professional guidance and for much more besides. Michael Hurst, Conservation Officer for Chelmsford City Council has given essential practical support (particularly in providing the modern maps under OS licence) for which the Trust is extremely grateful. Thanks also go to Rob Adams for his Graduate Internship work on all our proposed sites in Chelmsford for which he overlaid late C19 ordnance survey maps with C20 ordnance maps to show how the sites and their boundaries had changed in the course of more than one hundred years. The Trust is also grateful to the Essex Record Office for their continuous help, advice, and permission to reproduce maps and illustrations. Finally, nothing would have been achieved without the inspiration of Fiona Cowell and Marion Swetenham who initiated the first Inventory which was for Braintree.

Jill Plater
2012

INDEX TO THE CHELMSFORD INVENTORY

English Heritage sites are in **bold**

Unless specifically stated, or otherwise advertised, it should be assumed that no site in this Inventory is open to the public

Admiral's Park, Tower Gardens and West Park	Page 6
Boreham House	Page 14
Central Park, Bell Meadow and Sky Blue Pasture	Page 19
Coptfold Hall	Page 25
Danbury Park	Page 32
Greenwoods	Page 37
Hylands Park	Page 44
Killigrews	Page 49
Langleys	Page 55
Leez Priory	Page 60
Lilystone Hall	Page 68
Littley Park	Page 74
New Hall	Page 81
Non-Conformist Cemetery	Page 85
Peacocks	Page 89
Riffhams	Page 98
Skreens Park	Page 102
Writtle Road Cemetery	Page 108

SITES NOT INCLUDED IN THE INVENTORY

The following sites were researched partly or fully, but were not included in the inventory. Some proved to be of minor significance, others have been too extensively altered to merit inclusion, some impossible to evaluate due to lack of archive material or because we were unable to visit. Brief summaries of each of these sites are included from page 113.

Baddow Park, Great Baddow
Baileys, Mashbury
Boreham Old Rectory, Boreham
Brent Hall, Boreham
Broomfield Hall, Broomfield
Broomwood, Chignall St James
Cahtham Hall, Little Waltham
Crondon Park, Stock
Downham Hall, Downham
Downham Grange, Downham
Dynes (Dyves) Hall, Chignall Smealy
East Hanningfield Hall, East Hanningfield
Edwins Hall, Woodham Ferrers
Fristling Hall, Stock
Great Claydons, East Hanningfield
Great Graces, Little Baddow
Great Waltham House, Great Waltham
Gubbions Hall, Great and Little Leighs
Guy Harlings, Chelmsford
Horsefrith Park, Highwood
Hyde Hall, Great Waltham
Hyde Hall, Rettendon
Little Newarks, Good Easter
Little Waltham Hall, Little Waltham
Little Waltham Lodge, Little Waltham
Little Waltham Rectory, Little Waltham
Lyons Hall, Great and Little Leighs
Margaretting Hall, Margaretting
Old Lodge Farm, Springfield
Old Riffhams, Little Baddow
Plesheybury, Pleshey
Pleshey Grange, Pleshey
Quaker Burial Ground, Chelmsford
Rettendon (New) Hall, Rettendon
Rettendon (Old) Hall, Rettendon
Rettendon Place, Rettendon
Rettendon Rectory, Rettendon
Sandon Rectory, Sandon
The Plantation, Mill Road, Stock
Tofts, Little Baddow
Walters Cottage, Little Baddow
Walthambury, Great Waltham
West Hanningfield Rectory, West Hanningfield
Woodhill House, Danbury
Writtle Park House, Highwood

TL 695 073

Admiral's Park and Tower Gardens are a composite of town centre parks located in the historic core of Chelmsford where the evidence of Victorian landscape can be traced along with history going back still further.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Admiral's Park is named after John Faithful Fortescue, a Rear Admiral in the Navy, who owned Writtle Lodge, previously known as Great Waterhouse, sited near the entrance to the Pitch and Putt course in West Park.

In 1596, Sir John Petre, Kt. settled properties on his son William on his marriage. Among these were the capital messuage called the Lodge in Writtle, then known as Great Waterhouse Farm (ERO, D/DP F12). Writtle Lodge was built in 1712 by George Bramston, Esq., (Whites Directory, 1848). It could not be ascertained if it replaced Great Waterhouse Farmhouse or was a completely new build. The 1777 Chapman and André map recorded Great Waterhouse Farm, part of which became Admiral's Park. There was no date found in the records as to when George Bramston ceased to be the owner of Writtle Lodge. Writing in 1978 Stan Jarvis extracted from Peter Muilman's *New and Complete History of Essex...by a Gentleman* (1772) the following passage:

‘Besides those already mentioned there are two very good estates in this parish (of Writtle), one called Great Water-House, the other the Little Water-House: and are both the property of – Frane [Fraine], of Serjeant's-inn...- They are so named from their low situation; in particular the former, which in times of very great rain is surrounded by water, and the passage to and from it rendered it impassable unless in a boat.’

A description by a traveller in 1772 (cited in Chelmsford Planning Survey, 1945), ‘The Chelmer and Cann [note spelling] form here an angle along which lie many pleasure gardens, etc., and some are agreeably laid out. On the banks of the rivers various temples and summer houses are built, some of which are so pretty in their construction as to display an elegance of taste in the projectors.’ This Plan also stressed the importance of the preservation and maintenance of public open spaces and ‘demanding constant vigilance’ to retain them.

The 1777 map charts that the River Can had been channelized at some point but that the meander was still intact. Great Waterhouse estate, south of the meander, was most likely the site of Writtle Lodge. A comparison between the c1800 black and white print of Writtle Lodge depicts what appear to be two rivers at a lower level in front of the house; one straight and one sinuous, validating the siting of the house and the two courses of the river.

In the appendix of Thomas Wright's 1831 *History and Topography of the County of Essex* he describes a plate of Writtle Lodge as ‘The seat of Vicesimus Knox, Esq.. This elegant mansion is enclosed in a park, which extends to the extremity of the large parish of Writtle, and is distant nearly a mile from the town hall of Chelmsford. After this estate and house had been sold by the original proprietor, it was successively in the possession of various purchasers and remaining some time the property of Captain Frasier, was given in marriage

with his daughter to Admiral Fortescue. The park is ornamented with finely-formed trees, of luxuriant growth; and the surrounding grounds, chiefly consisting of rich meadow lands, are exceedingly fertile. This seat is near the River Can, and lying rather low, is subject to be flooded when a sudden and heavy fall of rain occurs. On this account it was formerly called Great Waterhouse, as a farmhouse lower down the stream is named Little Waterhouse. The present owner of this estate is John Faithful Fortescue, Esq., the nephew of the admiral; and it is occupied by Vicesimus Knox, Esq., as his tenant.'

Admiral John Faithful Fortescue (1755-1819) changed the name of Great Waterhouse to Writtle Lodge and after his death, the estate eventually passed to his nephew John Faithful Fortescue (1805-1881). The house was then bought by John Attwood, owner of Hylands House, and he had it demolished about 1843-1848 as it spoilt the view. Writtle Lodge stood on high ground and was within direct line of sight of Hylands House.

In 1875 Admiral's Park was open parkland with scattered trees as shown in the 1875 ordnance survey map. Two springs and a gravel pit are charted in the north-west of the site. The pond shown on the 1843 Tithe map had, by 1875, gone and the area of the springs is marked as marshy ground. There are lines of trees concentrated on the eastern and western boundaries, in the area of the springs in the north-west and along the paths in the south-west. There are two paths; one crossing diagonally from south-west to north-east, and one bordering the inner edge of the spring and gravel pit area, running north-south. The River Can old course or meander was still present but annotated as marshy ground. There were three footbridges over the river; one on the western boundary, one over the new stretch of river and one over the old course. Great Waterhouse south of the river is marked and has several rows and avenues of trees. Bundick's Hill and Rainsford Road, which border the Park to the north, have some roadside development. To the east of the Park (but not adjoining the Park) and south of Rainsford Road were two to four properties with extensive gardens. West of the spring area there was a gravel pit. The vast majority of the land around Admiral's Park was open countryside. Water from the springs in Admiral's Park was one of the sources tapped and used for Chelmsford.

There are no discernible differences to either the park or surrounding land between the 1875 ordnance survey map and the 1881 ordnance survey map. By 1896, however, there were major changes in evidence. Within Admiral's Park, the trees in the area of the spring and gravel pit were gone and the Chelmsford Corporation Water Tower and Reservoir are shown. The path running north to south had gone. To the south of the river, most of the meander had dried up with only a small pond area remaining under the footbridge. Some marshy ground in the vicinity of the meander next to the river was still charted. Most notable, however, was that there were now no trees in this area and that Great Waterhouse was no longer there, only Little Waterhouse remained. The gravel pit to the west, in what is now Tower Gardens, was substantially larger, indicating that it has been worked. There was a large property and garden outside the eastern boundary adjoining the Park. A substantial development has been built north of Rainsford Road, Admiral's Park Estate (ERO, D/DDw T23/4). With the exception of the building along the Rainsford Road, the countryside surrounding Admiral's Park was still open.

A 1906 Watercolour painting of a footbridge over the River Cann at Writtle Lodge Park depicted a wooden bridge that was elevated. This was most likely due to the frequent flooding in this area and elevating the bridge would offer some measure of protection from damage.

Admiral's Park had been described as an 'enclosure studded with beautiful elm trees and has a natural slope down to the River Cann' (ERO, D/B7 C 5/3). A photograph of Admiral's Park dated 1919 shows mature trees, most likely the elms. Around this time Admiral's Park, containing in area around fourteen acres, was coming up for auction. Chelmsford Council agreed unanimously to buy the whole park if possible, if only to protect the water supply, and negotiated with the owners and applied to the Local Government Board for loan sanction which was approved on 12th May 1919 to be repaid within sixty years.

1921 is the next ordnance survey map. This shows that within the Park, there was another building next to the water tower and a tank. The building was most likely the Engineer's cottage. The development around the Park was substantial, with new properties along the eastern boundary, more houses around the Admiral's Park Estate and houses west of the area that is now Tower Gardens.

In 1926 it was recorded that it had been necessary to fell three to four large elm trees in Admiral's Park that had become dangerous (ERO, Recreation Ground & Baths Committee Minutes 19 October 1926), which would have changed some of the character of the Park.

In the period between World War 1 and World War II, a large number of playing fields were constructed (Conway, 1995) and Chelmsford's contribution, for Admiral's Park, can be seen on the 1949 ordnance survey map (ERO, New Series Sheet No 54.10). This shows there was a cricket ground with pavilion in the north-west segment of the Park. A new path had been constructed that skirted the cricket ground and exited opposite Park Avenue. Tower gardens with its recreational facilities of a bowling green and tennis courts, paths and new tree planting had been developed, while the sprawl of Chelmsford had continued to spread west and north.

During the Second World War, a barrage balloon was flown in Admiral's Park, primarily to protect the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company that was south west of the Park (Air of Authority, 2010). The Balloon Hut remained *in situ* until 1963 when the Parks Committee recommended that it be demolished (ERO, Minutes 3 Dec 63)

The Chelmsford Planning Survey in 1945 noted that there was an 'undesirable rubbish dump' on the south bank of the river opposite Admiral's Park, the original site of Writtle Lodge, and there were concerns about impurities draining into the river as well as its 'unpleasant appearance'. The supply of water from Admiral's Park continued for many years. The tower was taken out of service in 1947 (Minutes, 13 Feb 1952) when a submersible borehole pump was installed. This was reported by the Water Committee who recommended disposal of the old pumping station (Minutes, 6 May 1947). In 1952 the water tank was deemed to have deteriorated to the point of being dangerous. The cost of dismantling and demolition to a height of 15ft was £1000 to be offset by £500 from the sale of the iron). By 1964 the tower had gone and that area was being used as a car park but the springs were still a source of water in 1968 (Minutes, 22 May 1968). Admiral's Park no longer supplies water to Chelmsford (Chelmsford Borough Council, 2008) but the springs still flow. They are now directed through an underground pipe and discharge into the River Can.

The 1949 ordnance survey map shows three sets of tennis courts in Tower Gardens as well as a monument (the conduit moved from the High Street), while Admiral's Park has a cricket ground and several buildings. In the 1950's the site of some tennis courts in Tower Gardens

was redeveloped for a bowling green. A wooden scout hut was obtained and used as a clubhouse. In the mid 1970's the hut was replaced by a purpose-built building and ten years later the facilities were further extended and improved, and have more recently undergone modernisation.

In the County of Essex Development Plan 1952, under Parks and Playing Field, Admiral's Park was described, once again, as 'an attractive piece of grassland with some fine elm trees', but these would all have been dead by the 1980s due to Dutch Elm Disease (Forestry Commission, 2011). However, this fine piece of grassland was threatened in 1973 when a car park between the cricket pitch and the River Can was proposed. The Chelmsford Society voiced an objection (Society Newsletter, Vol 2, No 2) and ultimately the car park was not constructed

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION AREA, BOUNDARIES & LANDFORM

Admiral's Park is one of a riverside series of connected parks in Chelmsford. It is 14.63 hectares in size and is bordered by the River Can to the south and Bundicks Hill/Rainsford Road to the north. The land slopes from the road to the river. Tower Gardens cover 1.91 hectares. West Park covers 12.86 hectares.

ENTRANCES & APPROACHES

The main vehicular access to Tower Gardens is from the A1060 Roxwell Road and leads into a small car park. The boundary wall to the entrance is mid C20. Vehicular access to Admiral's Park is from the Rainsford Road and Bundicks Hill. These areas are also accessible via the Riverside Walk Network. West Park is also accessible from Waterhouse Lane.

ADMIRAL'S PARK

The boundary of the park has remained essentially the same. There are no apparent ancient boundary hedges or tree lines. The north-west corner, the original site of the water tower, is now a car park with entry/exit to Rainsford Road. There is an iron fence between the car park and what was the cricket ground; possibly an early to mid C20 century fence. South of this is rough ground and then a fenced off area with no public access which was the site of the old reservoir. The original north-east to south-west path of the park is still there but with a modern surface. The footbridge at the western boundary has collapsed into the river. It does not look like the original bridge as the remains are concrete and the remains of the bridge rails hollow metal, probably mid to late 20th century. The second remaining footbridge looks to be late 19th/early 20th century in style and material. It is arched and the balustrades/side walls are of red bricks that have a slightly uneven texture and shape. There is one football pitch and a beech hedge round the boundary of what was the cricket pitch. The lower end of the Park has a children's play area and the northern bank of the river is somewhat overgrown. All that remains of the third footbridge are a set of steps that lead down to the river. There are three mature oak trees on site, estimated at around 100 years old. All other trees seem to have been planted within the last 50 years.

Culturally, there was a community-led project to explore the history of Admiral's Park and to celebrate its successful completion; Chelmsford Borough Council planted an avenue of *Quercus spp* along the original path that cut across the Park. The council also erected

Interpretation Boards at strategic points, outlining the history of the Park and more specifically that of Admiral John Faithful Fortescue (Activ Chelmsford, 2010).

Chelmsford City Council, despite the current economic climate, is keen to maintain, improve and promote this locally historically important park. Following an application, Admiral's Park in conjunction with Tower Gardens and West Park was awarded Green Heritage Status by English Heritage for 2010-2011. 'The aim of Green Heritage Site status is to promote the value of and best practice in the care and upkeep of historic sites. This can give added benefits to a site by generating community interest and securing a long term future for the site that will be valued and cherished by all who use it'.

TOWER GARDENS

A stone domed Grade II listed conduit stands on raised grounds in Tower Gardens. The Conduit has a stone dome on six circular Doric columns and is inscribed 'This conduit was erected AD 1814 by the parish, aided by subscription of one hundred pounds by Robert Greenwood, Merchant' and on the other side it says 'Rebuilt by the Parish AD 1852'. Originally the Conduit was sited in the High Street near the junction with Springfield Road and relocated to the park in the early C20. This area of the park is particularly well landscaped and near to the conduit is a late C20 mosaic, from recycled materials, in a serpentine path leading to a sundial which is dated 2006. In the 1950's the site of some tennis courts in Tower Gardens were redeveloped for the bowling green. Adjacent to the bowling green there is a mid C20 retaining wall built from reused C19 stock brick.

WEST PARK

West Park is set in a mature landscape and adjoins the River Can. West Park is a delightful small park with a popular 18 hole pitch and putt and 9 hole crazy golf course. It can be accessed from Waterhouse Lane and from the riverside walk network. Beach's Drive is named after the Beach family who operated Writtle Oil and Leather Mills and then Beach's Brickworks, following a fire which destroyed most of the old mill. Clay for the bricks was mined from the area we now know as West Park Pitch and Putt. It is still possible to see old clinker and bricks near Tower Gardens bowling green and evidence of the narrow gauge railway that carried raw clay to the pug mill that operated next to 'three weirs'.

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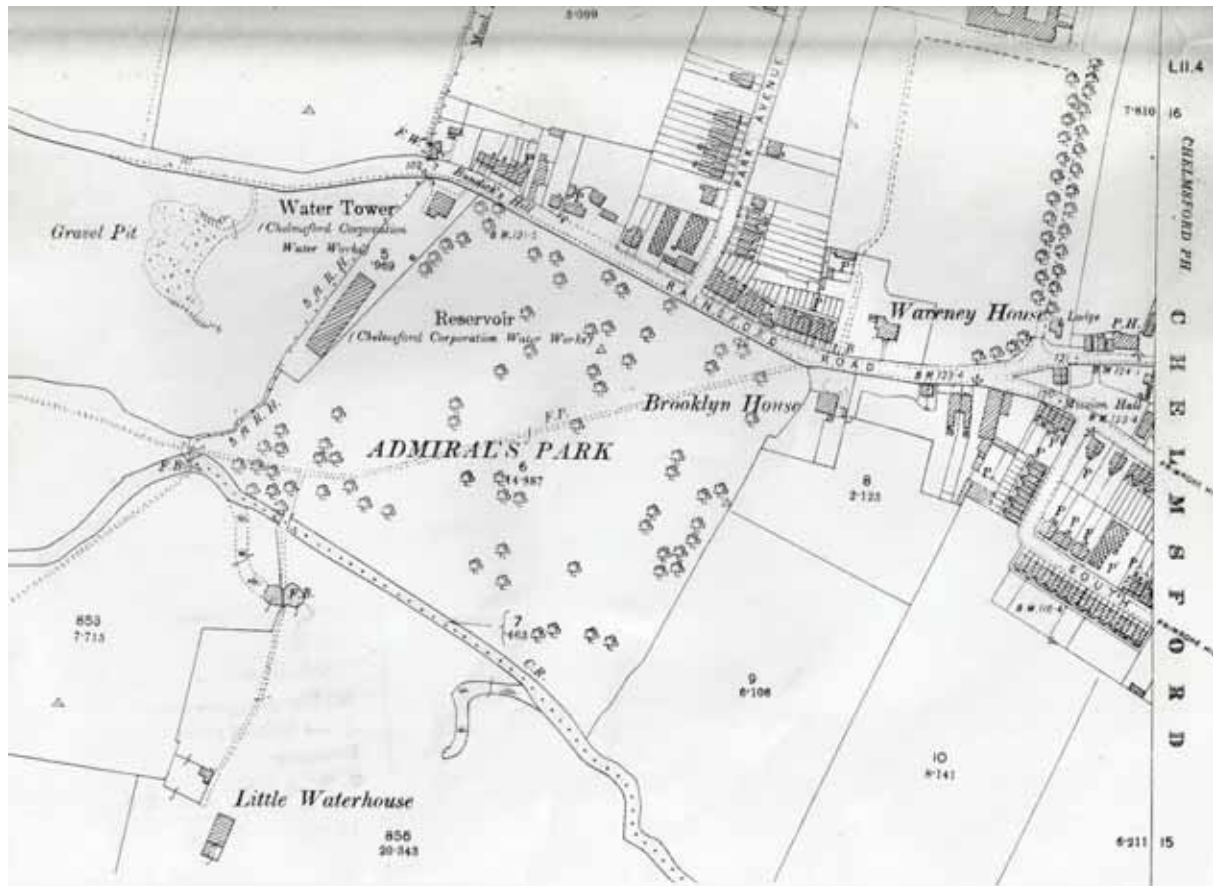
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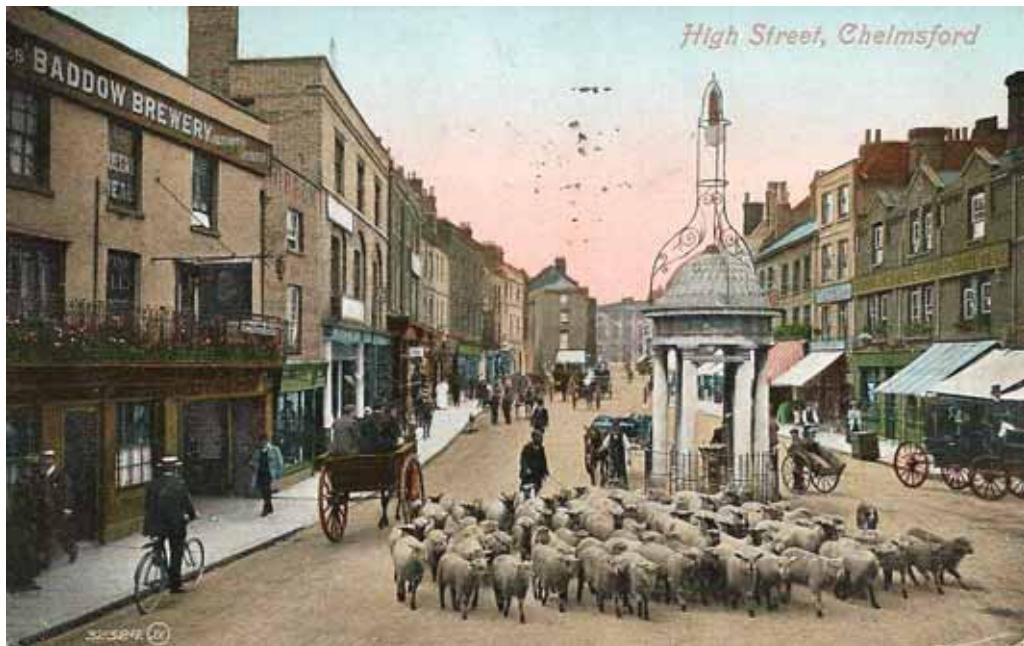
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1897 25" ordnance survey map 2nd edition sheet 52.3
(reproduced by kind permission of the Essex Record Office)



WRITTLE LODGE



Conduit in the High Street c1910



Conduit in Tower Gardens 2012

**CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL
BOREHAM**

BOREHAM HOUSE

TL 74597 09101

GRADE II

Formal canal and gardens laid out in the 1720s, with pleasure grounds designed by Richard Woods in the 1770s

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

At the beginning of the C18 the site of Boreham House formed part of the neighbouring New Hall estate (qv), which in 1713 was sold by the widow of the second and last Duke of Albermarle to Benjamin Hoare, son of the rich Fleet Street banker. Possession of the New Hall mansion however was only to take place after her death and Hoare, rather than wait for her to die, chose to build himself a new house nearby. Boreham House was completed in 1728 to designs by Henry Flitcroft and was approached by twin drives flanking a long canal. Benjamin died in 1750 and was succeeded by his elder brother Richard who, in the early 1770s commissioned the landscaper Richard Woods to lay out pleasure grounds and create a lake on the south side of the house. The formal canal and approach, shown in an engraving by Muilman in 1771, remained unaltered. Richard Hoare was succeeded by his son Henry Benjamin, who died in 1779 leaving two daughters, but Boreham House seems to have been inherited by a second cousin, another Richard. Richard was created a baronet in 1786, after which time he did not live at Boreham House but rented it to Sir Elijah Impey. In 1789 Richard Hoare sold the property to William Walford who resided at the House until 1797 when it was bought by Sir John Tyrell, whose descendants, eventually through the female line, remained at Boreham House until 1930. In 1812 Sir John commissioned the architect Thomas Hopper to add carriage arches to the wings of the House. During the early years of the C19 Sir John and his son, also John, laid the surrounding farmland to pasture and ornamented it with tree planting, while at the beginning of the C20 Mrs Tufnell-Tyrell made a rock walk and wild garden in the pleasure grounds and widened Richard Woods' lake. In 1930 the 3000 acre (1250ha) estate was purchased by Henry Ford who established Fordson Estates Limited. Boreham House and 32 acres (c 13ha) of surrounding land was used to establish the Henry Ford Institute of Agricultural Engineering. In 1952 it was transferred to the Ford Motor Company and thereafter became a training centre for Ford Tractor Operations. During the 1970s Ford began selling much of the surrounding land and in 1995 the House and pleasure grounds were sold to Mr V Adams. The site remains (2000) in single private ownership.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Boreham House is situated on the north-east edge of the town of Chelmsford, between the villages of Chelmer to the south-west and Boreham to the north-east, and is set in a highly populated part of the county. The House and grounds cover c 13ha and lie just to the south-east of the A12, their north-west boundary formed by the B1137 which runs parallel to the A12. The remaining boundaries are all formed by farmland and are partly ditched or hedged. The ground at Boreham House is generally level, with a slight fall to the south-east towards the River Chelmer valley which lies c 700m beyond the boundary of the site here registered.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The approach to Boreham House is from the B1137, through gates which lead to twin parallel drives flanking a long formal canal. The drives lead directly to the entrance forecourt below the north-west front of the House.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

Boreham House (listed grade I) is a small mansion built of dark-brown brick with stucco dressings. The entrance front faces north-west and is of seven bays with a projecting central Tuscan portico over the front door which is reached by a small flight of steps. The main facade comprises a central block of two storeys with flanking single-storey wings and triumphal carriage arch entrances at the north-east and south-west ends. The gardens on the south-east front are reached by a flight of balustraded steps from a central pedimented doorway. Boreham House was designed by James Gibbs and executed by Edward Shepherd for Benjamin Hoare between 1727 and 1728. In the early C19 Thomas Hopper added the grand carriage arches for Sir John Tyrell.

Through the arches on either side of the House are service and carriage courts, and stables.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The gardens lie to the north-west and south-east of the House, separated by the House itself and by garden walls which extend beyond each of the wings to the north-east and south-west boundaries of the gardens where they terminate in symmetrical square garden buildings, perhaps banqueting houses. Between the carriage drives on the north-west front is a c 250m long formal canal, laid out when the House was first built in the early C18. At this time each of the drives were lined with elm trees, creating a four row avenue, considered by County Life in 1914 to be 'probably one of the best elm avenues in the country'. During the 1960s all the avenue trees were lost to Dutch elm disease and have since been replaced by a collection of flowering cherry trees, mixed shrub beds, roses, and bedding set in grass on the canal sides.

From the south-east front steps lead onto a gravel terrace which looks over a sloping lawn scattered with a variety of trees and shrubs. The central lawn is free of trees, giving a view down to the small informal lake created by Richard Woods in the 1770s, which runs along the south-east boundary of the gardens. The lake was widened to its present size by Mrs Tufnell-Tyrell at the beginning of the C20. The gently undulating lawn was contoured by Woods to open up the view of the lake and the landscape beyond it, a view which is now (2000) obscured by trees around the water. Woods also formed small hillocks in the grass on which trees were planted, the hillocks but few of the trees surviving. Along the south-west side of the lawn is a larger concentration of trees, many of them later C20 additions to the area where Woods planted a pleasure-ground shrubbery. During the 1930s the south lawn was used for tennis courts and a small formal rose garden laid out to the west of them. Neither the lawns nor the rose garden survive (2000).

A small bridge (unsafe, 2000) leads over the south-west end of the lake to a small area of dense woodland, the probable site of Mrs Tufnell-Tyrell's rock and wild garden, while at the north-east end of the lake a mid C20 plantation of conifers has been added. The boundary planting along the north-east side of the gardens is of mid to late C20 character and at the north-east end, near the House, it screens a depot and storage area used for tractor storage during Ford's occupancy of the House.

PARK

The former parkland lies outside the area here registered. During the first half of the C19 Sir John Tyrell laid some of the surrounding farmland to pasture and embellished it with clumps of trees, adding an icehouse to the field south-west of the canal. Two contemporary writers, in discussing Boreham record that the landscape was 'not very extensive but laid out with great taste' (Virtue 1831; Wright 1836) and both describe only the Woods' pleasure grounds and lake. The icehouse survived only until the end of the C19 and the fields were returned to agricultural use when Henry Ford set up the Institute of Agricultural Engineering in 1930.

KITCHEN GARDEN

The walled kitchen garden lies on the south-west side of the House and is joined to it by the stable courtyard wall. Gateways in the north-west and south-east walls provide links into the rest of the grounds. The land is presently (2000) uncultivated and used for storing farm machinery. At the south-west end of the north-west wall is a square brick garden building, identical to the one which terminates the wall on the north-east side of Boreham House. The walled gardens are of C18 origin, probably built by Benjamin Hoare to accompany his new house in 1728, but certainly in existence by 1777 when Chapman and Andre's county map was published.

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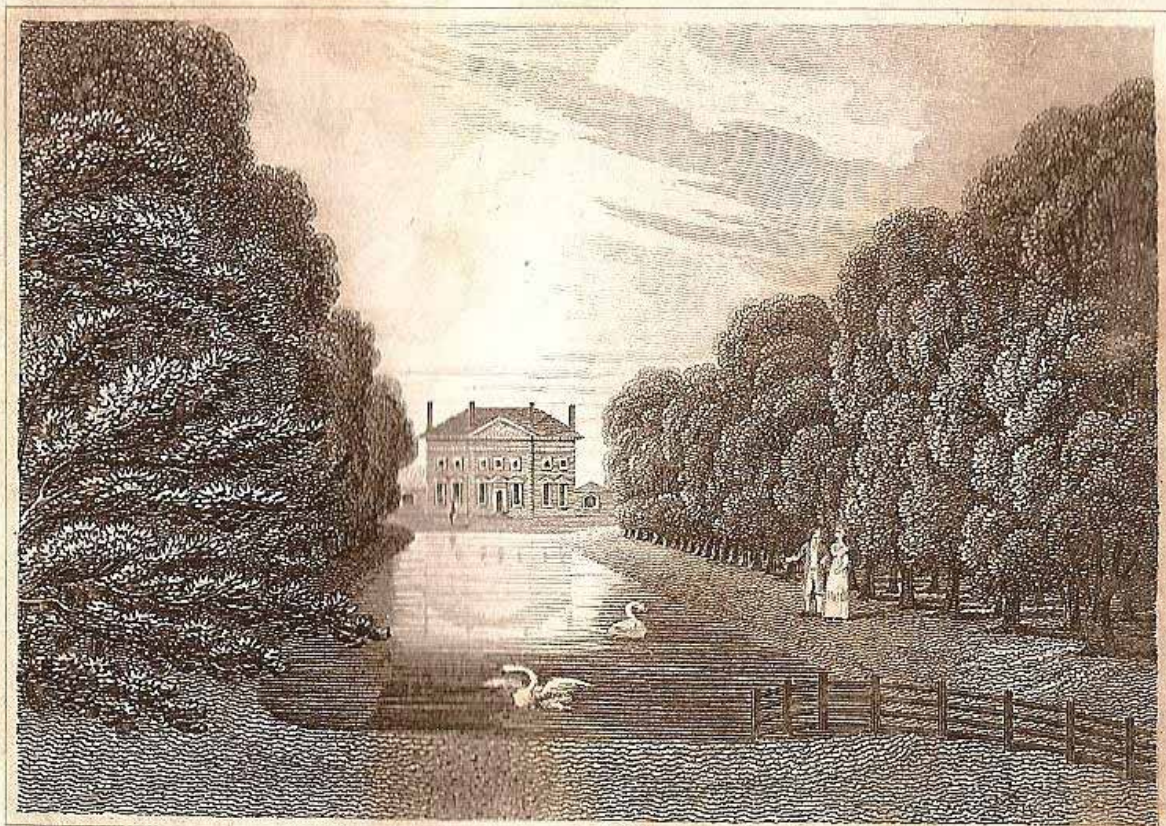
Illustrations

Two paintings by Wootton (1740) in Hoares Bank.

Archival items

Original documents relating to Boreham House are held in the Hoares Bank Museum; some are available on microfilm at Essex Record Office (D/DU 649).

Description written: September 2000 Register Inspector: EMP Edited: September 2001

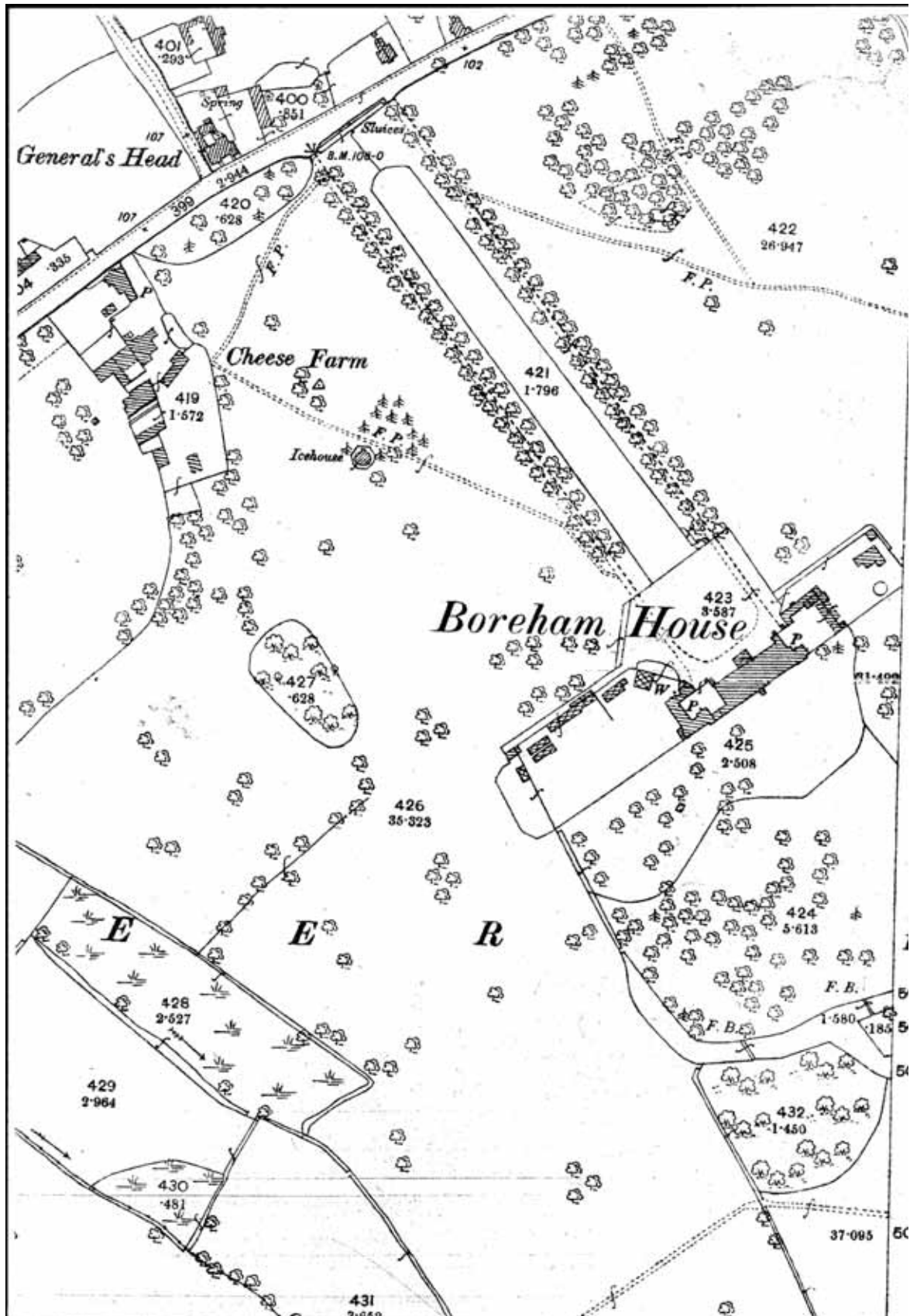


Drawn & Engraved by J. Greig, for the Excursions through Essex.

BOREHAM HOUSE.
The Seat of Sir John Tyrrell, Bart.
ESSEX.

Pub^d Mar. 1, 1818, by Longman & Co Paternoster Row.

Boreham House
From *Excursions in the County of Essex*
1818



25 inch to the mile 2nd edition ordnance survey map of
 Boreham House 1897 sheet 44.13
 (reproduced by kind permission of the Essex Record Office)

TL703 066

The park is a good example of a late Victorian public park – its layout incorporates most of the usual park features.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

In December 1886 a public meeting of the town's inhabitants resolved to ask their Local Board of Health to provide a recreation ground, and the Tax and Ratepayers' Association countered by asking for a poll to test public opinion. A recreation ground was one of seventeen suggestions considered to commemorate Queen Victoria's golden jubilee in 1887. A decision could not be reached and the jubilee was commemorated by putting up a clock.

In 1888 the town's government was modernised and in 1893 the mayor, Frank Whitmore, an architect, took up the idea of a recreation ground and riverside promenade and asked for subscriptions. The land was to be leased to start with, in case the ground was not a public success as well as to keep the initial expenditure down (below £2,000). One area leased from the railway company was a flooded borrow-pit next to a railway viaduct and embankment running across the river flood plain. This became the bathing and boating lake which was over two acres in extent and in the early days was studded with magnificent white water lilies and a pair of fine white swans which were placed upon the lake by Mr E Hunt-Carter. Chelmsford Recreation Ground was to cover sixteen acres and the work of laying out paths and beds, and constructing footbridges over drainage ditches to the river, took three men nine months. The new park was opened on 4th July 1894. Wells and Perry, whose brewery once stood on the corner of Duke Street and Victoria Road, charged a nominal sum of a guinea a year for the land which made the main entrance from Threadneedle Street to the bank of the River Can, where a circular grotto was planned and planted with flowering shrubs and nasturtiums. The next two hundred yards of the promenade, down to a new rustic bridge, belonged already to the council as part of the market area. The eight feet wide promenade ran on down to a second rustic bridge, bordered on one side by a twenty feet wide planting of trees of all kinds. In a field across that rustic bridge an athletic track was laid out and three tennis courts were constructed: cricket and football were also catered for there. Entrances to the park included one from Seymour Street, off New Writtle Street, Upper Bridge Road, and you could also enter the park from a path under the arches of the viaduct, or via Park Road from Duke Street. Lastly there was an entry past the Friends' Meeting House down the street, known today as Victoria Road South.

The recreation ground was quickly successful. A bandstand, designed by Whitmore, was built and the council let out a pavilion where refreshments could be bought. Boats could be hired on the lake, bowling greens were laid out, and the grounds were looked after by a full-time uniformed caretaker, who lived in a cottage on the site. In winter when the lake froze it was used for skating. A 'floating island' was formed and ducks and swans were raised.

By the early 1900's the council decided to buy the land bit by bit, partly using money that had been raised for a library and art gallery, which in the event had not been built, and partly with a loan from the Public Works Loan Commissioners. The total cost was apparently £6,076. The first greenhouse was built in the winter of 1902 to keep the more tender plants

alive through frosty days and an estimate from Crompton & Fawkes on 21 May 1902 with an amended sketch was for £25. The cost of slow combustion heating apparatus, a boiler fitted with a special grate for economising fuel with a 15 ft. chimney, cap and stays, and a set of stoking irons and a 12 ft. flue brush, amounted to an extra £11.

People applied to use the recreation ground for various functions. The Literary Institute was allowed to hold a fete; the town's fire brigade frequently gave demonstrations; and in the First World War soldiers camped there and were visited by Lord Kitchener in 1915. The recreation ground was to be closed to the public one Wednesday afternoon and evening July or August for a concert on behalf of the band fund. A temporary building was to be erected near the lake to contain closets and a urinal.

A series of green spaces, linked one to another, was developed through the centre of the town. The recreation ground was linked to other public open spaces along the river, through the town centre and out to the countryside.

During the second world war the land was requisitioned for anti-aircraft gun emplacements, dig for victory allotments, and similar uses. In 1945 Anthony Minoprio produced a plan for Chelmsford's future development, in which the central open space was highly valued (and compared to The Backs in Cambridge). A section of Minoprio's analysis stated that 'From Admiral's Park past the Recreation Ground and right through the town to Moulsham Mill, both banks of the river should be acquired by the Corporation. Along the south banks would be the new tree-lined parkway, the extension westwards of Baddow Road, while on both sides of the river shady walks, attractively lit in the evenings, with bridges, seats, cafés and shelters, would wind amongst flowering trees, pollard and weeping willows'. Minoprio also said that '...the opening up of the riverside land to a depth of fifty feet back on each bank is more important near the two bridges than anywhere else, for it is from there that the beauty of the new park will be most appreciated'.

By 1949 the battered old bandstand was demolished and work was begun to replace the old rustic bridge over the Can at Seymour Street with a graceful pre-moulded concrete construction. The elegant gates of the Recreation Ground marked the official reopening of the park, renamed Central Park. The opening ceremony was performed by the High Sheriff, Major Nigel Capel-Cure, on July 28 1951. All that remains of where Major Capel Cure stood for this ceremony are just two brick pillars and a piece of approach walling.

In 1960, at the same time as the road scheme was being considered, huge flood prevention works were undertaken. In the course of these the land was cleared in places to either side of the river, much as Minoprio had recommended, but this clearance was only temporary. In fact the diminution of the risk of flooding, and the landscaping of the river banks, proved to be an impetus to redevelopment, although continuous riverside walks were created.

By the 1960's increasing car ownership brought pressure for new roads through the town. 'Parkway' was finally built across the river in 1965, through the northern part of the original recreation ground and over the site of the bowling greens and bandstand in Central Park. This cut off outlying parcels of land which were then threatened with development.

Chelmsford's green riverside centre is hugely popular: it is not a conservation area, but is designated as a 'strategic green wedge' in the local plan.

LOCATION, BOUNDARIES

The town centre is divided by the River Can, which meets the River Chelmer just downstream of the town centre, to the east. The flood plains of these rivers, often under water in winter, were never built on. Central Park embraces 14.8 hectares and encompasses Central Park Main, Central Park North, Central Park West, Bell Meadow and Sky Blue Pasture. The park's attractively landscaped areas are situated close to the Town Centre, adjacent to Parkway and form the centre of the Riverside Walk Network.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

There are many entrances to the park where pedestrian walkways link with roads such as Roxwell Road, Waterhouse Lane, Writtle Road, Seymour Street, New Writtle Road and Parkway. Many of these are by means of pedestrian bridges over the River Can and some underpass roads such as Parkway and under the bridge that links Waterhouse Lane to Rainsford Lane. The pedestrian mid C20 reinforced concrete bridge over the River Can from Seymour Street has a single span semi-elliptical arch and open square balusters and replicates the stone bridge in the High Street. The New Bridge in New London Road, giving access to Bell Meadows, is an iron C19 bridge over the River Can with six elliptical arch ribs and is listed Grade II.

THE PARK

Central Park is an important recreational space within the town with many mature trees and areas of soft landscaping as well as several activities and facilities for the public to enjoy. The park has a network of footpaths and cycle ways linking all areas of the park and beyond, all of which are well signposted. The 1960's/1970's steel and reinforced concrete bridge leading across the River Can from New Writtle Road meets other paths and here a roundabout controls pedestrian and bicycle traffic flow and has a stock brick retaining wall laid in Flemish bond brick with a simple steel railing on top, and with a central flower bed.

The old bathing lake, which is now a fishing lake, is an attractive and well maintained feature in the park with its impressive backdrop of the arches of the railway viaduct. The lake, c1843, pre dates the formal recreation ground and its shape remains as depicted on earlier maps. It was created by excavation for the construction of the adjacent railway embankment. The lake has a central island and there are mid to late C20 York stone steps and copings to a curved brick retaining wall to the northern end of the lake.

Bell Meadow and Sky Blue Pasture are nearest to the shopping centre of Chelmsford: Bell Meadow is the site of the town war memorial, a polished granite obelisk dedicated to those who died in the Boer War (1899-1902). Planting in this area includes a C20, possibly 1960's, rock garden, a giant leaning Redwood situated beside the River Can, and a centenary avenue of red oaks.

Bordering Central Park are the Marconi Ponds, a local green space of natural beauty and interest situated in the centre of Chelmsford. The ponds were originally created by Cromptons for industrial purposes and following Marconi's closure in 1994 were left untouched for 3 years. The Friends of Marconi Ponds was formed to develop the Nature Reserve, help in different ways ranging from practical conservation, recording the plants and animals on the site or help promote and manage the project as part of the 'Friends' group. The area is perfect for wildlife, with kingfishers and herons already present. The site is being transformed into a permanent area for wildlife, education and recreation. As well as ponds the

site also contains woodland and meadow areas. The railway embankment acts as a habitat corridor linking it to Central Park.

Central Park currently provides the following facilities: junior equipped play area; toddlers' equipped play area; fishing lake; bowling green; tennis courts; croquet lawn; river and jetty; café building; public conveniences; riverside walks; lit footpaths and cycle ways; park furniture such as benches and bins. It is also home to special events such as the funfair, firework displays, circuses, etc.

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Researcher: Sarah Green and Jill Plater

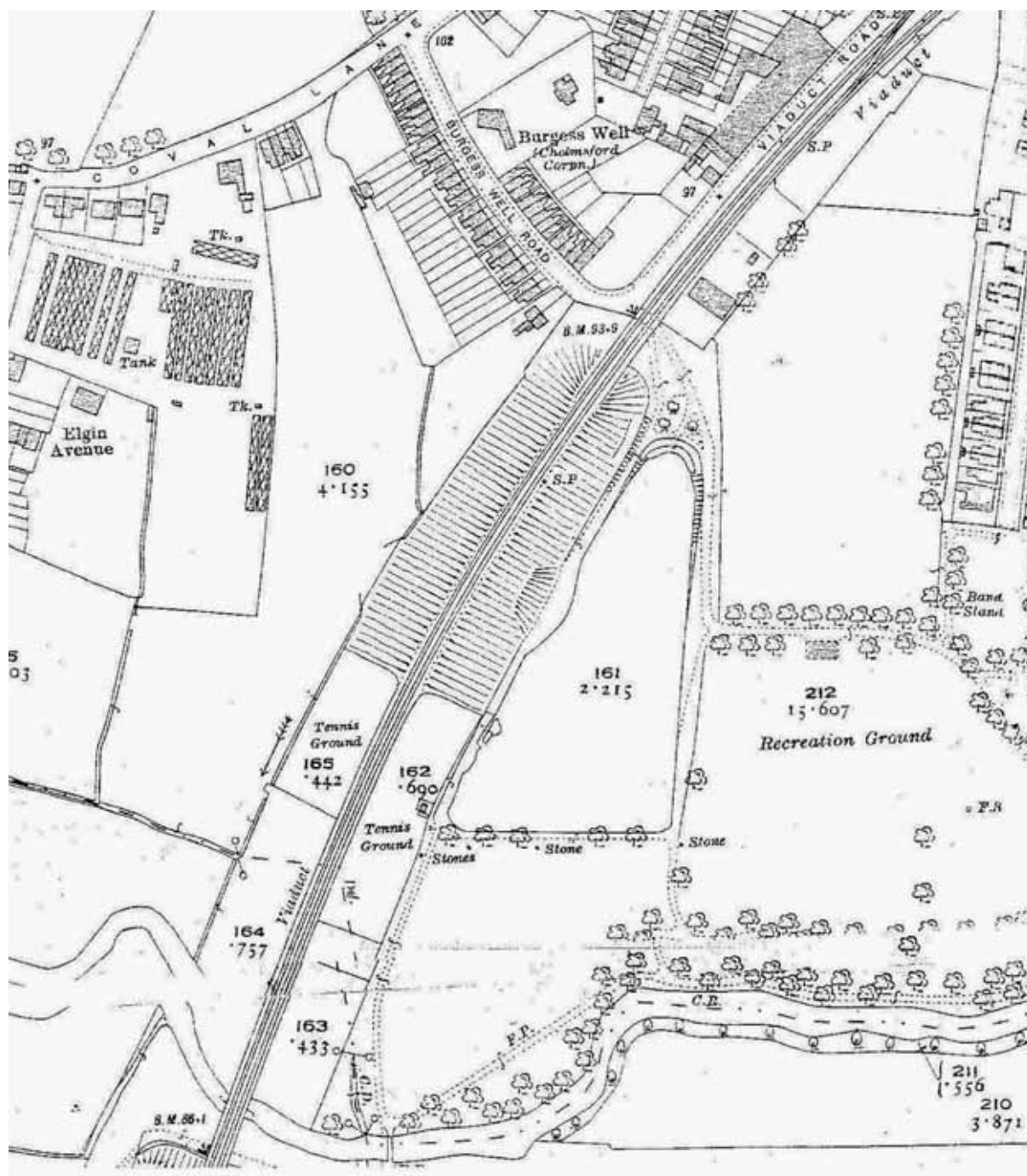
Site visit: Sarah Green – various - Jill Plater 4 March 2012



1874 1st edition 25" ordnance survey map sheet 52.8 prior to the development of the recreation ground, but showing the bathing pond (now the fishing lake), Bell Meadow, and numerous brick fields and their tramway (reproduced with the kind permission of the Essex Record Office)



Postcard of the Rustic Bridge, Public Park postmarked 1908



Central Park, Chelmsford
Showing the lake (numbered 161), the band stand, and the tennis courts

(New series 1921 first edition ordnance survey map 25" to the mile sheet 54.14 –
 reproduced with the kind permission of the Essex Record Office)

TL 658 030

Coptfold Hall has remnants of the 18th century layout depicted on Chapman André's 1777 map of Essex. The richly timbered woods date from at least the 19th century and the gardens show remaining Victorian features.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Coptfold Hall was previously known as Colde Hall and Cold Hall: both John Norden's map of 1504 and Joannes Blaeu's map of 1645 refer to the property as Colde Hall.

The principal manor was held in the year 1166 by John de Sandford, and came by marriage, to the family of the De Veres. This mansion belonged to the Countess of Oxford, in the year 1360, and to William Cheyne, esq., in 1371. Edward Clovile inherited Coptfold Hall in 1515-1516 and the manor carried on in the Clovile family until John Tanfield inherited Coptfold Hall in 1554. Daniel Tanfield, who also held the Manor of Peverels in West Hanningfield, was the last of the family to hold the manor and his wife was a widow by 1713.

Richard Benyon bought the manor of Coptfold Hall in 1728 and Morant in *The History and Antiquities of the County of Essex* wrote that he had made 'great improvements and additions to the house'. Richard Holden bought the estate, including the old manor, on 21 November 1755 and seems to have begun building a new house designed by Sir Robert Taylor at once. By 1777 it was the residence of Mrs Ann Holden and at this time Coptfold Hall's parks and gardens were impressively depicted by Essex map makers Chapman and André showing avenues of trees and formal planting. In David Hughson's 1809 book *London; being an accurate history and description of the British Metropolis and its neighbourhood to thirty miles extent* the manor of Coptfold Hall is describes as having 'an exceedingly pleasant mansion: being situated on an eminence, it commands an extensive view over Gallywood Common, Stock, etc. as well as towards Danbury. It is an elegant modern building, with gardens laid out in pretty taste'.

Richard Vachel was Coptfold's owner by 1826-7 but a year later the estate was auctioned. The sales catalogue for 30 September 1828 (ERO D/DC27/588) refers to the estate as being the late residence of Richard Vachell, Esq., deceased, and had a well timbered park, a capital kitchen garden, and extensive stabling. Coptfold Hall was described as being delightfully seated on a considerable and very pleasing eminence, in a beautiful park containing 166 acres, very richly ornamented with uncommonly fine stately oak timber. The 'walk' or 'avenue field' was ten acres. In front of the house was a spacious area with numerous extensive vaults in which was an ice house. The kitchen garden was enclosed with lofty walls with fruit trees, a range of grapery and orangery, and an aviary in the centre. At the rear of the north wall were a range of gardeners' sheds, a pinery, and a melon pit. The estate also had a malting house with dove house over which was timber built and tiled. An enclosed courtyard had a Clock House with a cupola and an extensive range of premises. The plan of the estate accompanying the sales catalogue shows the formal parterres behind the house and the richly timbered woods through which the carriage drive passed. The timber was valued in 1829 at

£9,402 which included over 3,000 oak trees, ash, elm, hornbeam, beech, walnut, fir, chestnut and poplar. The Priests Walk, in the same position as it is today, is also shown on this plan

John Attwood of Hylands was the next owner and pulled down the fine old mansion c1850. D.W.Coller in his *The People's History of Essex* 1861 was scathing about John Attwood and wrote 'All the cottages around were demolished: the mansion of Coptfold Hall was pulled down, public roads were bought and blocked up with plantations and a grim baronial solitude was created'. Eventually, Attwood overreached himself and his assets were seized by creditors and his estates were broken up.

In 1861 the Hon Arthur Petre purchased the manor of Coptfold and embarked on the construction of a new house set deep in the Writtle woods, and approached by half mile drive from the Margaretting Road. The new Coptfold Hall was built in 1862 in the heart of the twenty-eight acres of Bosmoor Wood and from 1870 until 1882 Coptfold Hall was the residence of the Hon Arthur Charles Petre, J.P. and the Hall continued in the Petre family for many years. Subsequent owners were Lloyd Mitford, Esq in 1894 and Mrs Jupp in 1898. The 1874 25" 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows the large walled garden with greenhouse in the same position as the dilapidated one is today. Outside the bothies are shown and a gravel pit.

A sales catalogue held in the Essex Record Office (D/DMa/B71/15) dated 14th June 1906 refers to Coptfold Hall as a family mansion with private chapel. The sales catalogue describes the 'heavily timbered woods and parklands and, from the high road, the carriage drive was over half a mile long and of a serpentine character, passing through a wood of exquisite beauty, abounding with rhododendrons, fir trees, and evergreen flowering shrubs of mature growth. The carriage drive terminated in a broad sweep before the house. The walled in kitchen garden and orchard covered two acres and was well stocked with apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, plums, apricots, and other wall and standard fruit-bearing trees, while the vegetable ground produced more than sufficient for a large establishment. The vinery was heated by hot water pipes and contained two full-bearing vines of the 'Black Amber' and 'White Sweet' varieties. Surrounding the residence was a charming terrace walk, tennis lawn and flower parterres. Sylvan woods formed a belt around the whole area with secluded walks, beautiful oak trees, interspersed with blooms of innumerable rhododendrons'. The estate was advertised as covering c365 acres, taking in Furness House, newly erected Coptfold Farm, a lodge, and a gardener's cottage. The hall itself was given as at an elevation of 340 feet and approached by two carriage drives, one of them serpentine in character. The estate also had a tennis lawn and a cricket ground with pavilion.

Major Edward James Upton D.L. became the owner in 1907 and the estate has remained in his family. For a period of time the Uptons lived at nearby Park Lodge and developed in c1946 two gardens there, one of them wild, and later opened to the public as part of the National Gardens Scheme. Climbers, camellias and roses abounded with a profusion of other flowers and shrubs. Over 40 species of wildfowl could be seen on the Lodge's pond and there were hundreds of free flying budgerigars. Birds and aviaries could be seen in the gardens up to the 1970's. The National Gardens Scheme advertised the garden of Park Lodge as open to the public in June 1970 and described it as a 'small garden, roses, herbaceous borders. Collection of wildfowl and budgerigars flying at liberty'.

The Women's Institute held garden meetings at Coptfold Hall where a huge marquee was erected and delicious teas served on the terrace. There would be folk dancing or some other entertainment and then a walk around the lovely gardens to admire the superb rhododendrons.

Mr Stuart Martin was asked to design a new country house at Coptfold, Essex for Simon Upton after he took over the 1,200-acre estate from his parents. New Coptfold Hall, begun in 2002 and completed in 2005, occupies the old park, originally created for a villa designed by Sir Robert Taylor in 1751. Taylor's house had been demolished in the 1850s and replaced with a gaunt, red-brick Gothic house for the Petres. The 19th-century stables and small chapel survive on the far side of the new entrance court and help to root the new building. The main part of the Victorian house was demolished in the 1960s and the new house occupies part of the site, with fine views over the mature grounds planted with oak, beech and early 20th-century rhododendrons.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM & SETTING

The soil is of mixed character, subsoil, loamy. The estate today comprises several hundred acres including Furness and Coptfold Hall Farms. To the east it extends some distance over the byroad leading to Writtle, formerly called Coldhall Lane, and on the west adjoins Writtle Park: the two Edney Woods lie to the north. Coptfold Hall is four miles from Chelmsford and two miles from Ingatestone. The Hall is in the parish of Margaretting which is on the B1002 road and bypassed by the A12.

ENTRANCES & APPROACHES

The main and original drive is from the Writtle Road: the approach to the hall being very long and winding and passing Coptfold Hall Farm. The first section of the drive passes over open land until it reaches woodland and an avenue of horse chestnuts, it then continues winding through woodland until reaching the carriage drive of the house. The house can also be approached from a less winding drive from Ivybarn Lane passing Furness Farm.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

The current Coptfold Hall was built between 2003 and 2005 in a Georgian style. The coach house and neo-Gothic chapel remain from the earlier house and are adjacent, but not attached, to the new house. The barn immediately north west of Coptfold Farmhouse is listed Grade II and is mid-late 18th century with walls of soft red brick and lime mortar in Flemish bond.

GARDENS & PLEASURE GROUNDS

The 2005 Coptfold Hall has been built on slightly different footings to the previous house and therefore the immediate planting around the house is new. The position of the old terrace walk remains but much of the balustraded wall has collapsed with just its footings still visible. One section of the wall still stands but is in danger of collapse. Steps lead down to the old walkway and an ancient holly avenue. Below the terrace is the large rockery garden which is currently undergoing restoration. Alongside the rockery is an ancient *Wellingtonia*. Beyond the rockery is the old walkway and the lily pond, which is also undergoing restoration. A new view from the lily pond has been created by clearing a large number of trees and opening up an avenue which can be viewed from the house through to a pond and trees beyond. In the area beyond the rockery and walkway are two rings of box bushes and beyond these the area is thick with early 20th century rhododendron bushes which the current

owners are now working on identifying. Bamboos and ferns also grow in abundance in this area and there are also two beds of Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum*). Bamboo at one time was sent to London Zoo.

A photograph in the 1906 sales catalogue shows the Priests' Walk, an avenue of slender trees, with a crucifix as the focal point at the end. This walk has been restored and the crucifix has been replaced in its original position. The Walk is clearly marked on the 1828 sales plan.

KITCHEN GARDEN

The walls of the kitchen garden are now bereft of plants and are mostly in good condition with the exception of a couple of areas. The original greenhouses are in a state of dereliction. The main area of the kitchen garden is laid to grass with one section being used as a paddock with stable. One corner of the walled garden is being used by the current owners as a vegetable garden with a modern greenhouse. Remnants of the old bothies the other side of the greenhouse wall still exist as does the pond that is shown as a gravel pond on the 1874 1st edition ordnance survey map. Around this pond are a number of azalea bushes.

PARK

The estate is mainly covered with woodland, dense in places, Tree planting has taken place in denuded areas and some of the older trees, including towering oaks and pines, are clearly of the 19th century. There are varieties of holly and a good many diverse rhododendrons. The early 20th century sales catalogue describes the 'lovely sylvan woods with their secluded walks, beautiful oak trees, interspersed with the gorgeous blooms of innumerable rhododendrons and the gentle petal of the simple primrose, the whole producing before the eye a delightful picture of nature's beauty'. These sylvan woods are still beautiful and walks through them are being recreated.

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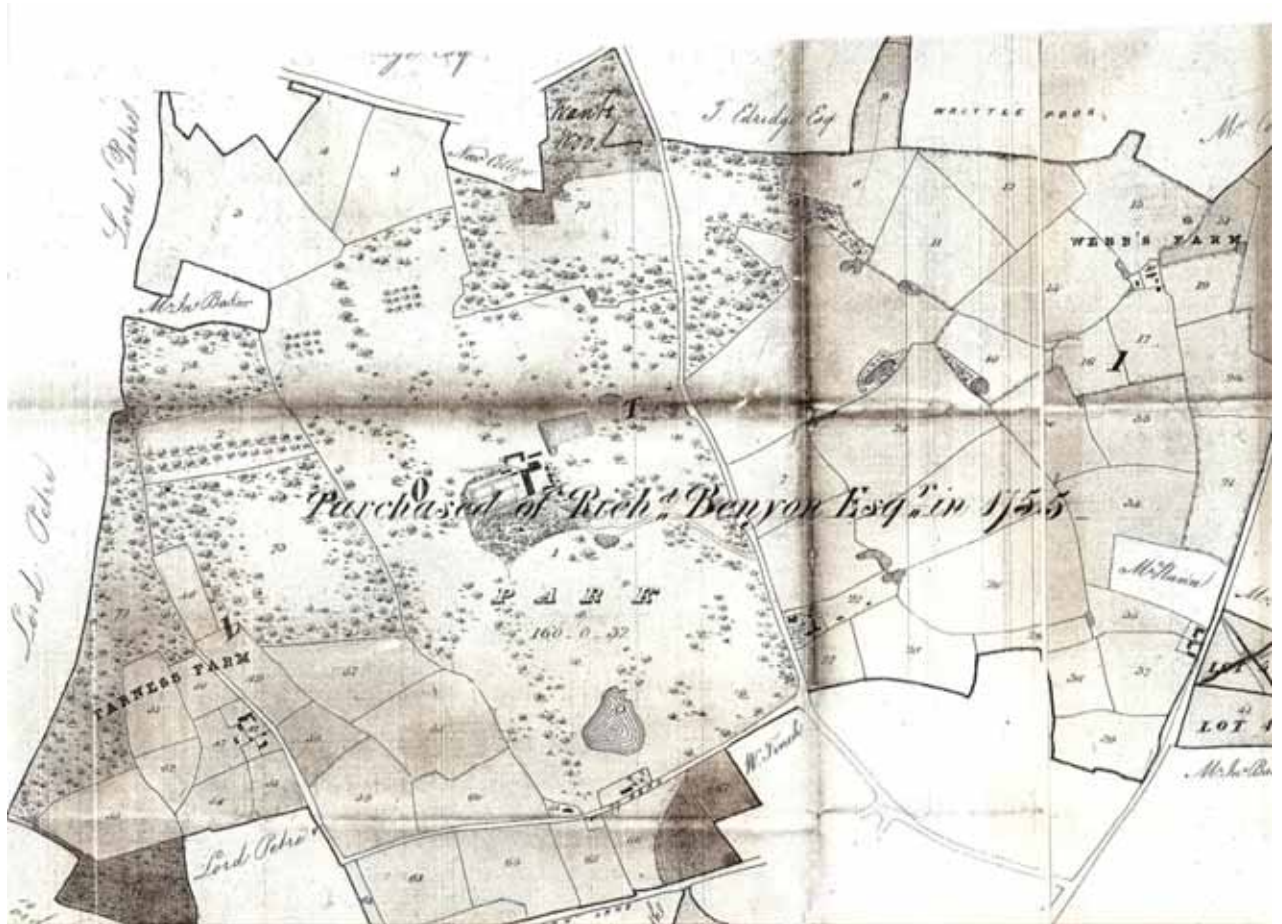
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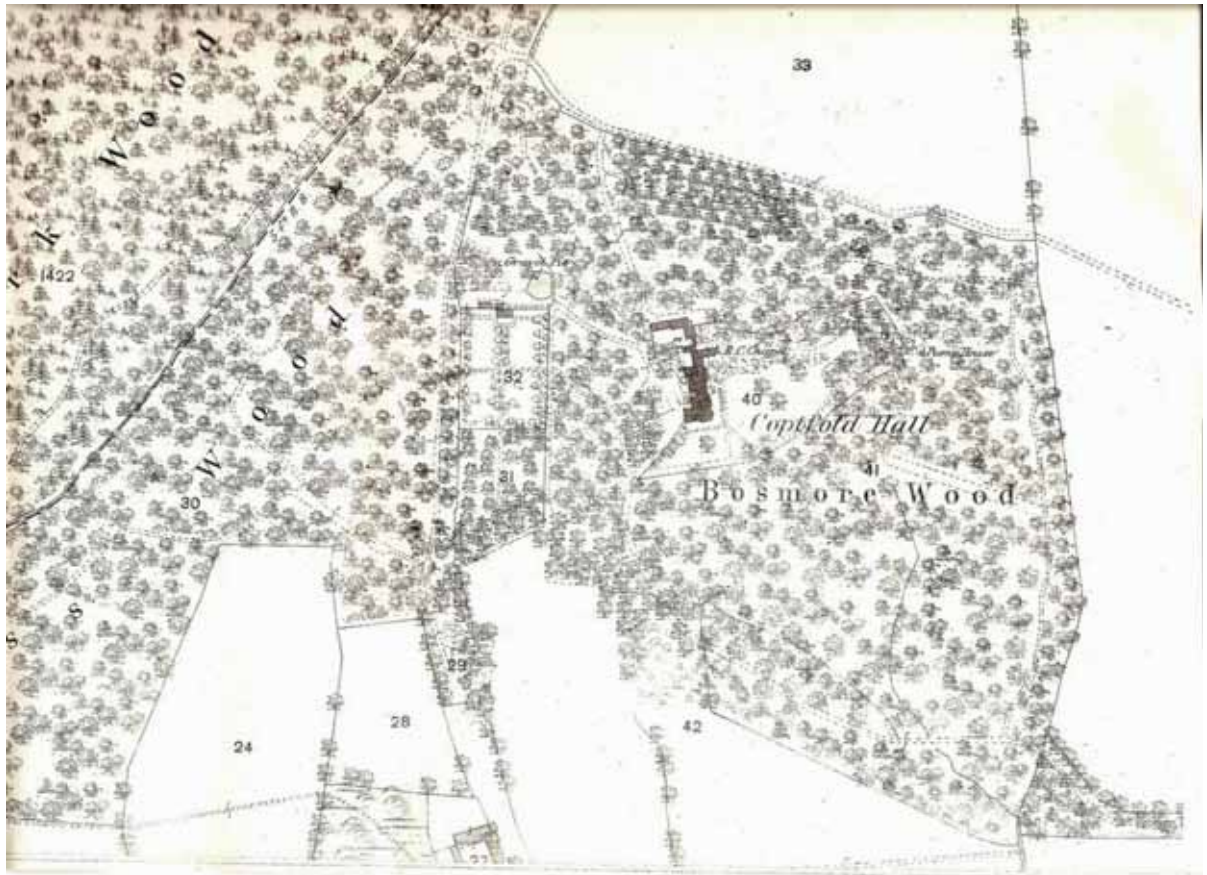
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Sales Plan of Coptfold Hall by E & G N Driver 1828
 (reproduced with the kind permission of the Essex Record Office D/DC27/588)



Walled Garden and derelict greenhouse 2012



1874 first edition 25" Ordnance Survey Map Sheet 52.14
(reproduced with the kind permission of the Essex Record Office)

Park and woodland originating in the C16, with mid C19 gardens and C20 developments, all surrounding a mid C19 mansion.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

In 1589 Sir Walter Mildmay purchased the Danbury estate from William Parr, brother of Catherine Parr, sixth wife of Henry VIII and decided to build himself a new house there which he called Danbury Place. The house was set within a deer park at this time (Rigby 1993). Sir Walter was succeeded by his second son who died in 1613, at which time the estate passed to Sir Walter's third son, Sir Humphrey. Through family succession, the estate passed to Colonel Thomas Fytche who, in 1758, commissioned an estate map which shows the park planted with several avenues aligned on the house, a further series cut through the woods on Stubbers Hill, formal gardens enclosed by a moat on two sides lying to the east of the house, and a walled kitchen garden. Thomas died in 1777 and was succeeded by Mr Disney Fytche, in the same year that the Chapman and Andre county map was published, showing that the site had not been modernised since 1758. By 1829 the house had fallen into disrepair and the following year the estate was sold to John Round, Member of Parliament for Maldon. The catalogue prepared for this sale records that in contrast to the poor state of the house, the park was 'very beautiful' and filled with 'stately trees' (ERO). John Round pulled down the C16 house and commissioned the architect Thomas Hopper to build a new one on a new site slightly to the east. He also built an icehouse at the western end of the lakes (J Round diaries, ERO). In 1845 Round sold the estate to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for use as an episcopal palace, resulting in the name of the mansion being changed to Danbury Palace. During the mid C19 the bishops laid out elaborate formal gardens to the east of the mansion and an American Garden to the south. The bishops sold Danbury in 1892 to Seth Taylor who quickly resold it to Hugh Hoare. During the early years of the C20 Danbury became the seat of Colonel Alwayne Greville before being sold in 1919 to General Wilson. In 1947 much of the estate was purchased by Essex County Council who set up a youth camp in part of the park and in 1974 designated the southern area around the lakes as a country park, while the house and its associated buildings became part of Anglia Polytechnic University. The site remains (2000) in divided private and public ownership.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Danbury Park lies on the western boundary of the Essex town of Danbury in an urban-edge setting. The mansion stands in the centre of a generally level park which slopes gently from north-east to south-west. The c 100ha site is bounded to the north by the A414, to the east by Well Lane, and to the south partly by Woodhill Road and partly by farmland which extends round to enclose the west boundary. The fall in the land allows views out of the park from the mansion over the farmland to the west.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The main approach to Danbury Palace is from the centre of the northern boundary, past Main Lodge (listed grade II), an early to mid C19 red-brick turreted building in the Tudor style which lies c 500m north of the mansion. The slightly curving drive runs south to arrive at the west front. Prior to the building of the Hopper house in the early C19, the northern approach

to the earlier mansion consisted of two parallel straight drives lined with groups of trees. The drive was realigned by John Round when the new house was built. Other mid C19 lodged entrances are no longer connected to Danbury Palace. Lower Lodge, a single-storey, red-brick cottage lies c 800m to the north-west of the mansion, at the north-west tip of the park, while c 400m to the south-west a further mid C19 lodge now marks the entrance to Cedar Cottage, a mid C20 private dwelling erected immediately to the west of the stable block. Woodhill Lodge lies on the south side of Woodhill Road c 300m to the south-east of the mansion.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

Danbury Palace (formerly Place) (listed grade II) is a large, red-brick country mansion built in the Gothic style for John Round by Thomas Hopper in 1832. The main block has two storeys and parts which rise to three and four storeys, with mullioned windows and a two-storey entrance porch on the west front. The house has castellated parapets and an octagonal turret on the north-east corner. At the south end is an attached chapel added by Bishop Wigram between 1860 and 1868. The present house was built to replace an earlier mansion which was erected by Sir Walter Mildmay in 1589 and stood slightly to the west. It currently (2000) forms part of Anglia Polytechnic University who have also taken over the former stable block and service buildings which lie to the south-west of the Palace. Late C20 buildings have been added to the complex by the University.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The garden lies to the north, east, and south of Danbury Palace, enclosed to the north and partly to the east by high red-brick walls. The north garden, which is laid to lawn, is entered through a gate beside the north-west corner of the house and is divided from the north drive by a screen wall composed of decorative iron panels between red-brick gate piers which forms the western boundary of the north garden. Beyond the lawn there are mixed borders at the base of both boundary walls.

The lawn extends round to the east front where it is planted with several mature specimen conifers. A brick path from a garden door runs east through the lawn to a set of brick steps, c 6m from the east front, which lead up to a series of garden compartments enclosed by clipped yew hedges and topiary. These compartments include a rose garden, a long walk, a pool garden with a pair of small formal lily pools, and a mid C20 tennis court. Although most of the planting is late C20, the form of this garden dates from the mid C19, following the rebuilding of the house.

A path before the east lawn, running north/south parallel with the east front, leads south beyond the house to a small yew-enclosed C20 herbaceous garden planted below the outer east and south walls of the C19 kitchen garden. The path then continues south through the site of what was, in the C19, an American Garden (now lost), to the lakes in the woods along the southern boundary of the site.

Beyond the entrance drive below the west front a large open lawn is bounded by a low curved brick wall, with central wrought-iron gates hung on brick piers surmounted by urns, which is aligned on the west avenue, giving views out of the park across the surrounding countryside. This arrangement, along with the planting of the west avenue, was completed between 1897 and 1924 (OS).

PARK

Danbury Park in the late C20 has a very mixed character. The north-west quarter, where some mature oaks survive, is mainly fenced and used as horse pasture although part of it is under arable cultivation. By contrast, the east park remains under grass and is heavily treed, with a diversity of species and ages including some very mature cedar and oak, although none of the mid C18 avenues in this area survive. The north-east section is now (2000) used as a youth camp and some late C20 buildings have been erected. This area is enclosed by dense boundary woodlands which have developed since the late C19 and extend beyond Main Lodge into part of the west park.

The south and south-east sections of the park are entirely wooded and contain a string of three ornamental lakes, running from north-east to south-west c 250m south of Danbury Palace. Both the wood, known as Stubbers Hill, and the lakes are recorded on the 1758 estate map which shows a mount in the south-east corner of the wood upon which a series of paths and all lakes are aligned. By 1829 this formal arrangement had been removed. The south-west quarter of the park is now (2000) open arable land with no surviving parkland trees or boundary plantations. It is divided from the north-west section by the early C20 lime avenue aligned on the main entrance to the mansion.

KITCHEN GARDEN

The former walled kitchen garden lies on the south side of the stables and service buildings and is now (2000) used as a car park by the University. Map evidence suggests that the walled garden dates from the C18 and was retained by Round when he built the present house in the early C19.

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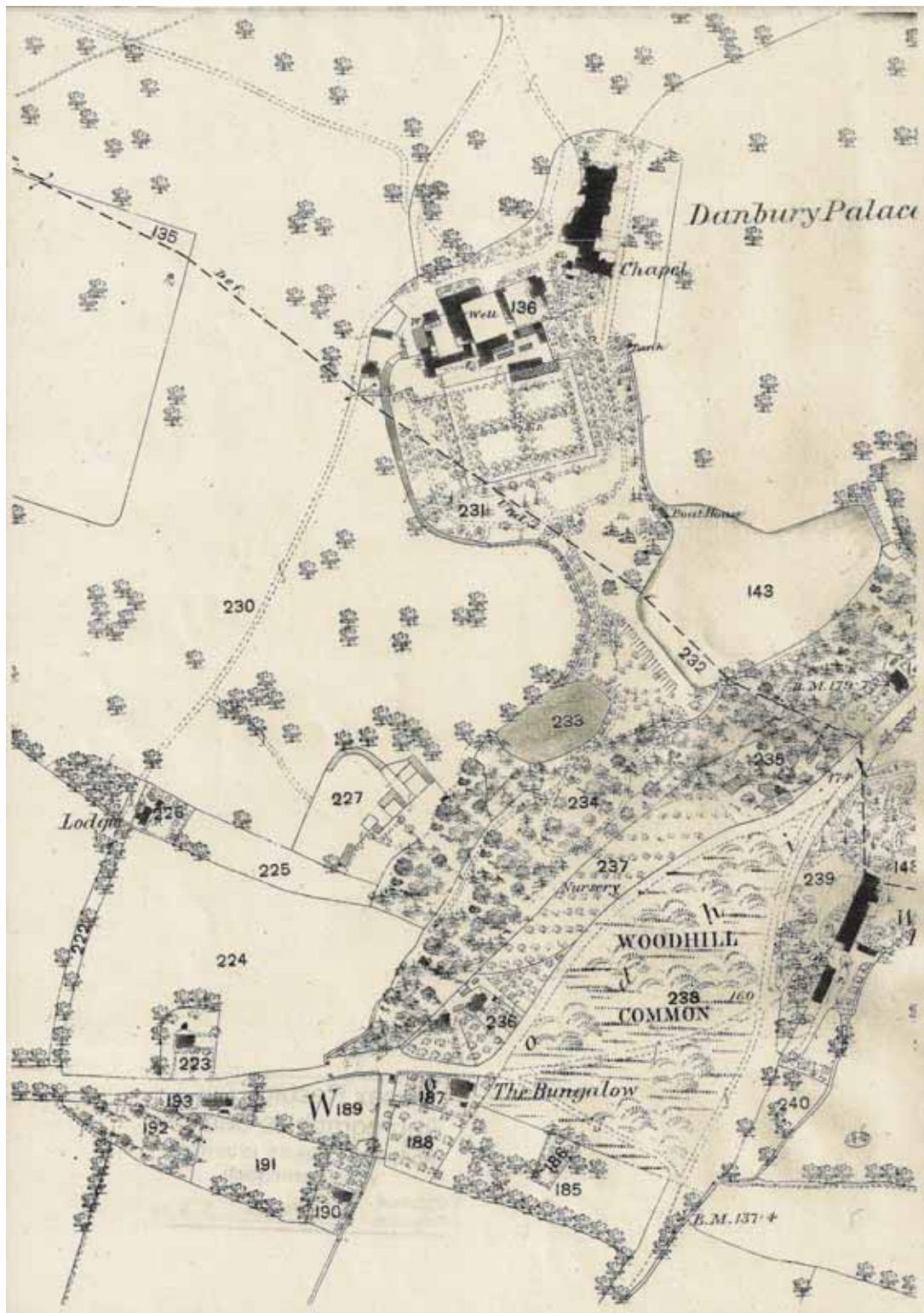


Engraved by J. H. P. from a Drawing by J. G. for the Excursions through Essex.

DANBURY PLACE,
The Property of Disney Fytche, Esq'
ESSEX.

Pub. J. W. Esq. by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

Danbury Place
From *Excursions in the County of Essex*
1818
(Private collection)



25 inch 1st edition ordnance survey map of Danbury Park 1874
 (reproduced with the kind permission of the Essex Record Office – sheet 53.10)

TQ 693 991

The major phase of garden design for Greenwoods was in 1908 when the Cumbrian landscape designer, Thomas Hayton Mawson, drew up plans for the owner Richard Adam Ellis. A large proportion of Mawson's design is extant.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

In the eighteenth century Greenwoods was known as Stock Hall. The oldest parts of the building date to the seventeenth century but the building is mostly early nineteenth century with twentieth and twenty-first century additions.

Greenwoods was originally owned by the Bate family. The daughter, Anne Bate, married Thomas Berington and after George Bate's death Anne inherited Stock Hall in 1751. For a time Stock Hall became a seat of Catholicism. Greenwoods passed to Thomas and Anne's third son William, born 1743, and on his death in 1791 to William's sole surviving son, Thomas, who inherited the estate until his death in 1811. His uncle Philip Berington became heir to Greenwoods until his death in 1818. Stock Hall then passed into the ownership of another Catholic family, the Eldridges. The Hon Arthur Petre leased Stock Hall from Wm Prior Johnson, Esq. in 1855. The lease included the outbuildings, coach house, stables, cottage and granary, gardens and pleasure grounds, shrubberies and plantations, meadow, pasture and woodland – in all 51 acres. The 1874 ordnance survey map shows that the boundary of the pleasure grounds was drawn much tighter around the house, which had been renamed Greenwoods. Ponds located mid-way at the northern boundary, and to the east of the early nineteenth century range, form focal points around which paths and shrubberies are arranged.

In 1901 Richard Adam Ellis acquired Greenwoods. He was born in 1855 and was one of the founders and for many years senior partner in the City of London firm of Richard Ellis and Sons, Auctioneers, Estate Agents and Surveyors. He married Emma in 1878 and had two sons and a daughter. He was many things including a parish councillor, churchwarden, Justice of the Peace, president of Stock Cricket Club and the President of the local Conservative Association. Thomas Hayton Mawson (1861-1933) was commissioned to design the gardens of Greenwoods for Richard Adam Ellis, JP in 1905 with revised plans in 1908. Mawson's design included alterations to the gardens which maintained 'a genuine old English feeling of breadth'. Within the layout was a covered way between house and park, a yew hedged sunken pond, a rose garden enclosed by trellis work, and a garden house. To one side of the rose garden stood a brick garden shelter furnished with a fitted wooden seat with a closed back and supported by wood columns, a tiled roof with broad lead hips that gave 'considerable character'.

The Cumbria Record Office in Kendal, the main depository for Mawson's work, has records relating to Thomas Mawson's design for Greenwoods for 1905 and a revised plan of the garden layout for Richard Adam Ellis in 1908 (WDB/1/33). The Record Office also holds photographs of the grounds taken in 1910 following the completion of Mawson's design (WDB 86/9/35). Two ponds, one near the house and another nearer to the stable block are shown on the 2nd edition ordnance survey map of 1896 and were incorporated into Mawson's

design. To the rear of the house a main path leads southwards to a major feature of the Mawson design, a sunken pond, which is on the site of the pond seen in the late nineteenth century ordnance survey maps. Paths lead out from each side of the sunken pond, one of these being an avenue leading to a serpentine wall, another to the summer house. A design of ornamental beds immediately outside the rear of the house led to an area of grassland with views to the parkland beyond. Mawson had made detailed plans showing a design for the ornamental wall and gateway that separated the grassland from the parkland and a covered walkway designed to lead west from the house to the ornamental beds and parkland. The 1896 ordnance survey map shows there was at that time a perimeter of trees around the main area of garden.

Other documents held by the Cumbria Record Office include a drawing in detail of a proposed gatehouse and a ground plan of the carriage court. Photographs taken in 1910 after the completion of the design at Greenwoods show the sunken pond and central statue, a path leading to the sunken garden, the covered walkway and ornamental beds, brick wall and recessed seating, the lily pond, and the rear of the house with its ornamental beds. A cruciform arrangement of trees in the south-east lawn was planned, including a Wellingtonia.

Following the death of Richard Adam Ellis, Greenwoods was put on the market by his son-in-law, Admiral Sir Harry Vernon Haggard, and daughter, Lady Haggard. Negotiations started with the Fire Service who wanted it for their headquarters but the West Ham Central Mission bought it in 1948.

Greenwoods was opened by the West Ham Central Mission in 1948 as their Country Centre and Queen Elizabeth officiated at the opening ceremony and planted a tree. In 1965 Ron Messenger took charge of the work in Greenwoods and under him it became a Therapeutic Community using a psycho-social model for the support of those suffering mental ill health. In Ron Messenger's book *The Greenwood Years* he relates how 'when the big ornamental pond – one of the most attractive features of the garden – had to be emptied to remove danger for little children, and turned into a rose garden, hundreds of water lilies were sold.' The book also refers to the selling of Swan Wood and the fields immediately opposite Greenwoods on the other side of the B1007. Swan Wood lies beyond the parkland and gardens of Greenwoods and was sold to the Woodland Trust. The West Ham Central Mission closed on 1st April 1999.

1999 sales particulars (ERO c1582) include in the description of the grounds that 'the property is approached over a gravelled driveway with grass verges and three mature horse chestnuts to the front of a high mellowed red brick wall with climbing roses. A gateway with high brick pillars, topped by urns and flanked by a Holm oak and yew, opens to a large gravelled sweep with central Italianate wellhead to the front of the property. A wrought iron gate, with attractive scroll work and pillars to either side featuring coats of arms, within a high brick wall opens to a gravelled walk with sweeping lawns interspersed with mature Wellingtonia, horse chestnut, copper beech, turkey oak, ash and lime, with well clipped yew hedge surrounding a sunken garden, having gravelled walks, shaped flower borders and centre piece fountain (damaged) of nymphs cavorting in the waves. An avenue of pollarded limes leads to the north west of the sunken garden. Lawns and terracing to the rear of the property lead to a paved covered walkway with brick arches, dividing the lawns from an area of orchard to the north. A gravelled driveway leads from the main access to Greenwoods to the rear of the property and original outbuildings.'

Greenwoods was opened as a Spa and Hotel in 2001 after the building was extended and refurbished.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES AND SETTING

Greenwoods lies in the rural village of Stock, its entrance directly off the B1007. It is approximately 6 miles from Chelmsford and 3 miles from Billericay and lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt. The site is bounded to the north by Crondon Park Road. To the east, the site is defined by a short section of a tall brick wall to the front of the house, beyond which is a greensward adjacent to the High Street. To the south of the main drive, the east boundary is marked by a timber fence and to the north, by a red brick wall. The site has a level aspect.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The approach to Greenwoods is from the B1007 through a wide entrance in a substantial brick wall flanked by brick piers surmounted with urns. This brick wall was presumably of Mawson's design as a very early 20th century Spalding photograph shows a wooden fence and gateway as the entrance to the house. In the verge between the road and the brick wall are mature horse chestnuts. This gravelled drive leads to the oldest part of the house and continues in front of the later additions to the old lily pond around which are spaces for car parking. Beyond the lily pond is a grassed area divided by a holly hedge and the few apple trees here are probably the remains of the old orchard. A further car park is beyond this, screened by a hawthorn hedge, and this secondary drive to the north, flanked by sweet chestnuts, forms the vehicular exit and to the south, a narrower entrance allows access and egress for motorised garden equipment.

There is a very large coppiced yew in the grassed area to the left of the main entrance. This yew is included in Mawson's design for the 'carriage court' with the wording 'yew tree replanted', and may have been an existing yew on the site that was moved. According to Mawson's plan other yews were to be sited in this area, possibly ornamental ones in pots that were a popular feature of his designs. Currently two well-shaped yews sit side by side in the bed south of the large yew but neither of these figure in this position on the 1908 design. Mawson's revised plan sites a feature in the centre of the carriage drive opposite the entrance to the house and this may have been a wellhead. A 1953 photograph shows a wellhead sited in this position which remains today although it may have been moved to a more central position, possibly to accommodate a circular driveway for the motor car.

Another substantial wall, also on Mawson's design, separates the gardens from the carriage court with access to the gardens through a single ornate wrought iron gate. The capped brick piers have a coat of arms on them.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

The Department of the Environment list part of Greenwoods as Grade II and describe the building as an early-mid nineteenth century stuccoed house with end pilasters and a twentieth century addition. The house is believed to have some seventeenth century remains. The house has been further extended in the twenty-first century in its adaptation to a hotel and spa facility.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The gardens retain many of the features of Thomas Mawson's 1905 and revised 1908 design. At the beginning of the twentieth century Thomas Hayton Mawson (1861-1933) was one of the most sought after designers of the day. Mawson's main feature at Greenwoods is the sunken garden which he surrounded with yew hedging. The original design for this area showed the sunken area filled with water with a central statue of cavorting nymphs and semi-circular stone steps leading down to the water from the centre of each side. This architectural design remains the same today although the sunken area now has only a small central area of water with the original statue in the middle. Shingle paths lead to this feature from the original stone semi-circular steps with small parterre beds set in grass in each corner. As in Mawson's design the semi-circular stone steps lead through central openings in the four sides of the hedges that surround the sunken feature. The northern opening leads along the main path to the rear of the house and to the red brick wall with the arched, recessed seating adjoining the covered walkway: 1910 photographs show that this path is unchanged today. The southern opening leads across grass to Mawson's original summer house which is approached by semi-circular steps. The summer house has a low red brick wall supporting timber columns which carry the tiled, conical roof: it has a closed back supported by wood columns and is fitted with a wooden seat. Different levels in the grass here show the outline of the original path. East of the sunken feature, a path leads to the lawn to the south-east of the house where a specimen *Wellingtonia* is planted. The fourth opening in the hedge around the sunken pond leads in a westerly direction through a pleached lime avenue to a serpentine brick wall. In the parkland immediately beyond the serpentine wall Mawson had planned to plant groups of Wheatley Elms but there is no sign of these today. The lime avenue and serpentine wall are exactly as designed by Thomas Mawson with two steps in the path about two-thirds of the way along the lime walk. The path by the serpentine wall culminates in five steps leading down to the main lawn in front of the rear of Greenwoods. Separating the lawn from the parkland Mawson had designed an ornate brick wall in which, opposite the bay of the house, was a single wrought iron gate flanked by piers topped with urns. The wall, gates and steps at Greenwoods are illustrated in the fourth edition of Thomas Mawson's 1912 book *The Art and Craft of Garden Making*. Today the wall has been replaced by a wooden fence but the stone base to the wall remains as does the semi-circular base to the gateway.

A covered walkway with a tiled hipped roof and brick arches was designed by Mawson leading westward from the rear of the house, and remains today. This walkway was also illustrated in the fourth edition of Thomas Mawson's 1912 book *The Art and Craft of Garden Making*. Originally a path led from the walkway to flower beds and through to the parkland, but this area has now been grassed over. At the house end of the walkway a brick wall capped with tiles continues and forms a recess for seating: the brick piers either side of this recess are topped with stone balls, the floor is of a geometrical stone and brick design which is the same as Mawson's original design. The view from this seating area is along the main path adjacent to the rear of the house to the sunken garden.

Mawson designed the area directly in front of the rear of the house with geometrically designed flower beds with a central stone urn. The central area is now paved with clipped box hedging either side.

PARKLAND

The parkland is not now part of the Greenwoods hotel site.

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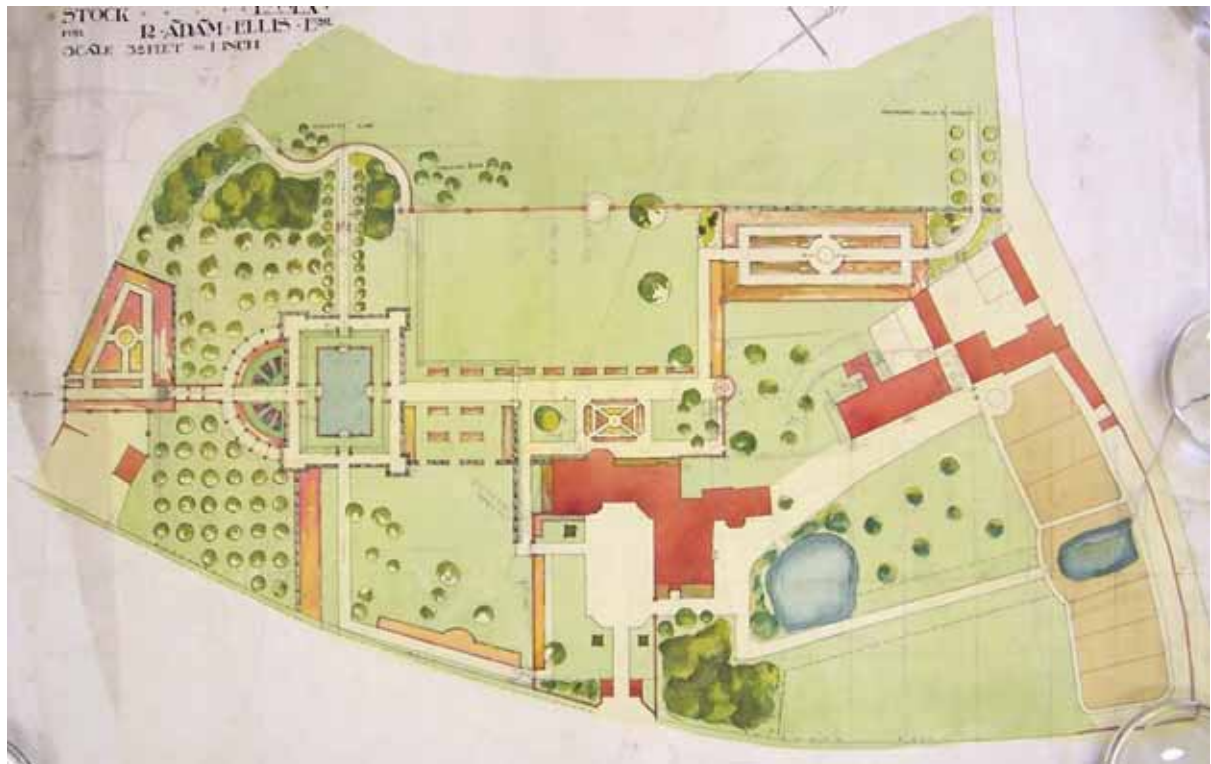
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Researcher: Jill Plater 2010

Site visited: Jill Plater various 2010



1906 PLAN OF GREENWOODS DESIGNED BY THOMAS MAWSON
(reproduced with the kind permission of the Cumbria Record Office)



**1910 photograph from the rear of the house showing the covered arches
and the wall and gateway separating the lawn from the park**
(reproduced with the kind permission of the Cumbria Record Office)



SUNKEN GARDEN AND HOUSE 1910
(reproduced with the kind permission of the Cumbria Record Office)



SUNKEN GARDEN AND HOUSE 2010

A public park since 1966, these late C19 gardens are set within a park of early C18 origin for which Humphry Repton produced a Red Book in the early C19 and which was further enlarged in the mid C19.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The earliest reference to the place-name Highlands is in 1500 when Thomas Hawkin died, leaving Highlands Field to the Vicar of Writtle. Sometime between 1723 and 1726 John Comyns bought the manor of Shackstones in Writtle and c 1728 built a house on a site south of the old farm/manor house, which he called 'Highlands' (Morant 1768). The layout of the grounds around it were recorded by Chapman and Andre in 1777 and show a park of c 100 acres (c 41ha) with simple formal gardens and a walled kitchen garden beside the house. These are described in sale particulars of 1795, prepared when, after three generations of Comyns, John Richard sold Hylands in 1797. The purchaser was Cornelius Henrickson Kortright, a Danish merchant. He added c 150 acres (c 62ha) to the park and commissioned Humphry Repton (1752-1818) to transform both house and park. An article in the Chelmsford Chronicle in 1839 refers to the Red Book which was produced for Hylands but this has subsequently been lost. An estate map of 1814 however probably records the work of Repton, showing changes to the approach roads, extensions to the park, a new site for the kitchen garden, and a serpentine lake along the new north boundary. In 1814 the estate was purchased by Pierre Caesar Labouchere, a Dutch-born banker. When he moved to Hylands permanently in 1821, he extended the park further and commissioned the replacement of the C18 greenhouse with a magnificent 280' (c 86m) long conservatory, possibly designed by the architect William Atkinson. Atkinson was paid to design glasshouses for the new kitchen garden which was developed from 1824 onwards by Francis Nieman on the eastern boundary of the park. A fruit cage was also designed but its exact location is uncertain. In the pleasure grounds, Labouchere turned the walled garden into a flower garden. Following Pierre's death in 1839, his son sold Hylands to John Attwood, a wealthy industrialist from Birmingham and it is at this time that Repton's Red Book appears to have left the house. Between 1842 and 1845 Attwood commissioned John Buonarotti Papworth to embellish and enlarge the house, while he greatly enlarged the park and built a brick wall all along the eastern boundary. Failing finances forced Attwood to attempt to sell Hylands in 1854, but no buyer was found until 1858 when Arthur Pryor bought the core of 843 acres (c 351ha). He demolished part of the wall of the flower garden and reduced the size of the conservatory but otherwise maintained the gardens well, leaving the estate to his son in 1904, who let it to Sir Daniel Gooch. Sir Daniel purchased the property in 1907 and commissioned Frederick Chancellor to make improvements to the house. In 1923 the house and its park were purchased by Mr and Mrs John Hanbury, Mrs Hanbury remaining at Hylands until 1962. During this time she altered the gardens, built a tennis lawn and east terrace, and made a ha-ha in front of the house. Following her death in 1962 Hylands was left to three nieces and the house was damaged by fire. In 1965 the executors put Hylands up for sale and the following year it was purchased by Chelmsford Borough Council. The park and gardens have since been made available for public use while the house has been subject to a major restoration scheme since 1985. The house remains in public ownership (2000).

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING Hylands Park lies just beyond the west-south-west edge of Chelmsford, on the south-west boundary of Widford. The c 233ha site occupies an urban-edge setting, with farmland extending away to the south and west. Hylands is bounded to the east by the A12 which links Chelmsford to the M25. This boundary is marked by a brick park wall, originally erected in the mid C19 but moved to its present (2000) position, along with its gates, in 1939 when the A12 was made. The southern boundary is formed by a stream with a golf course beyond, while the west is bounded by farmland. To the north the park is enclosed by the late C20 Writtle bypass which has isolated Writtle Lodge from the body of the park. The undulating ground falls gently from Hylands house which stands in the centre of the park on a slight platform. The main slope is to the north-east towards the course of the River Wid which flows through the north-east corner of the park, beyond which are views to Widford church spire.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES There are two gated entrances to Hylands Park along the A12 boundary. The main entrance, in the centre of the east wall, is marked by tall iron gates hung on stone gate piers. Known as the Widford Gate, it was created after c 1841 to replace the earlier Widford Gate which was located c 400m to the north, linked to a drive (now lost) proposed by Repton. The east drive runs west and then turns north-west to arrive at the gravelled forecourt below the south front of the house. At the southern end of the eastern boundary wall a second pair of iron gates, known as the London Gate, are hung on red-brick gate piers and lead to the south drive (after c 1815 but following advice from Repton) which runs north through the park to meet the east drive c 220m south-east of the house. In the north-west corner of the park, c 1.4km north-north-west of the house, stands Writtle Lodge which was built in the mid C19 when John Attwood extended the park. The Lodge is now detached from the drive and is connected to the park by an underpass beneath the Writtle bypass. The drive, partly lined with oak, runs south and south-east through the park along the line of the pre-1841 Writtle to Ingatestone road. It then curves east around the southern boundary of the pleasure grounds to arrive at the south front.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING Hylands (listed grade II*) is a large, cream, stuccoed winged mansion in the Neoclassical style. The imposing south front has a two-storey, seven-bay central block with a great Ionic portico and columns rising through two storeys (rebuilt 1986). The lower five-bay flanking wings both have ground-storey Ionic colonnades. The seven-bay central section was built as a red-brick Georgian mansion by John Comyns in c 1728. In the early C19, following advice from Humphry Repton, Cornelius Kortright added the portico and the east wing and covered the whole house in white stucco. The architect who detailed this work is not known, but it may have been J A Repton. In 1815, following its purchase by Pierre Labouchere, the balancing west wing was added. In 1842, the architect J B Papworth produced plans for John Attwood which resulted in the east wing being rebuilt, as well as the north wall of the west wing. Both wings were increased to two storeys and a further storey added to the central core. A new porte-cochère and servants' quarters which connected the house to the stables were added. During the late C20 these mid C19 alterations were removed, the house being restored to its early C19 form.

Immediately to the west-north-west of the house are the early C19 red-brick stable buildings and coach house, which form three sides of a courtyard, open on the south side and with a

central clock tower on the east range. These were built at the beginning of the C19 by Labouchere, presumably as part of the Repton proposals.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS The gardens surround the house to east, north, and west and are almost entirely enclosed by a tree belt and in part by a ha-ha. The ha-ha was constructed in the early C19 and was added to in the early C20. Beyond the gravelled forecourt below the south front a lawn is divided from the park by a curved ha-ha added by Mrs Hanbury in the 1930s. Below the east front a small 1920s terraced rose garden, remodelled in 1998/9, leads to a flagstone bridge over the ha-ha.

A lawn extends from the north front and is bounded to east and west by informal shrub borders, those to the east enclosing a tennis lawn built in the early C20 by Mrs Hanbury and now bounded by a low stone wall added in the late C20. At the north-east boundary of the lawn are large rhododendron borders planted in the early C20, which now (2000) obscure the view into the park and to the water.

The main body of the gardens and pleasure grounds lies to the north-west of the house. Paths cut through mixed species evergreen shrubs and trees lead to glades. The largest compartment is laid to lawn with an ornate bedding scheme, set beside a raised lily pool flanked by wisteria arches. This open area also represents the position of the earlier kitchen garden, possibly moved here by Repton at the beginning of the C19 when the shrubbery was created and subsequently developed as a flower garden with the building of the conservatory in 1824. The walls and most of the conservatory were demolished by the beginning of the C20. The pleasure grounds also contain a small informal pool c 200m to the north-west of the house, shown in its present position on the 1814 estate map.

PARK The extensive park at Hylands is heavily planted with trees of varying species and ages, with more open areas of grass to the north and south of the house. It is enclosed on all sides by plantations, which have been increased in depth during the C20. There are several large woodland blocks, many of which, including Lake Plantation and Icehouse Plantation (within which stands the ruin of the pre-1795 icehouse) to the north and Pond Plantation to the south, contain pools and ponds, while midway along the western boundary stands South Wood, an ancient woodland shown on the 1777 county map (Chapman and Andre). A serpentine lake with two small islands lies c 650m to the north-east of the house, now (2000) obscured by C20 tree growth along its banks. Beyond this, meadows flank the path of the River Wid which flows across the north-east corner of the park.

The early C19 flint estate cottage (originally thatched) and the Home Farm lie c 300m to the west-north-west and west of the house respectively, on the edge of what was the boundary of the earliest part of the park which dates from the early C18. Following advice from Humphry Repton, Cornelius Kortright and Pierre Labouchere extended the park in the early C19, firstly to the north as far as the River Wid and then to the south-west as far the London to Chelmsford road. Presumably under Repton's instruction, the drives were rearranged, trees were planted, and the small lake created (estate map, 1814). During the middle of the C19 John Attwood made further extensions, to the south, west and north.

KITCHEN GARDEN The walled kitchen garden lies on the eastern boundary of the park, c 400m to the south-east of the house. It is divided into two walled compartments which are currently (2000) not cultivated. No glasshouses survive although archaeological excavations in 1996 revealed foundations. The walled kitchen garden was moved to this position by

Pierre Labouchere sometime around 1824 when he invited Francis Nieman from Haarlem to lay them out and to practise the Dutch method of forcing. A cherry orchard was also laid out at that time although its precise location is uncertain. When the A12 was built in 1939, the eastern part of the walled gardens was lost, and the boundary wall rebuilt.

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Description written: December 2000 Amended: April 2001 Register Inspector: EMP Edited: September 2001



Hylands Park
6" first edition ordnance survey map published 1874
 (reproduced with the kind permission of the Essex Record Office)

TL 688 027

Early Tudor house surrounded by a moat which has sixteenth century brick walls. The garden has late nineteenth century and early twentieth century features.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Shenfield (now Killigrews) was originally a manorial name for the messuage held by William de Shenefelde in 1279. Morant, the County historian, writing in 1768, says that the earliest that is known as to the ownership of the estate is that it belonged to the family of Gedge or Gage. From them it passed to the Harrys or Herris family at the beginning of the sixteenth century. The Harrys family, after enjoying it for many generations, sold it to Robert Wood, a mathematician, from whose heirs it descended to the Alexanders.

The moated manor house was built by John Berdefeld/Bardfield (1477-1514). Some of the walls are of early sixteenth century and the moat is rectangular and revetted on the inner face with early sixteenth century brick walls. At the North West and south west angles are early sixteenth century octagonal brick turrets, with moulded plinths and elaborate cappings, forming a type of pinnacle. Cruciform loops in the outer faces of each turret, inner face has doorway with four-centred. Morant said that the moat was crossed by a draw-bridge, but this has now disappeared. In its place is a solid modern bridge of timber and brickwork.

Killigrews is marked as 'Shenfelde' on the map of Essex drawn by John Norden in 1594; as 'Shenfeld' on John Speed's map 1610 of Essex; as 'Shenfield' on Joannes Blaeu's 1645 map; as 'Shenvills' on Chapman and André's map of the County, published in 1777; and as 'Shenvils' on Mudge's Ordnance Survey map published in 1805; and on Charles and John Greenwood's 1825 map of Essex the house is referred to as 'Shenvils'. On the 1st edition 25" Ordnance Survey map (1862-1876) the house is named 'Killegrews'. and it continues with this name on the modern Ordnance Survey maps. The old name 'Shenfields' was discarded, apparently, about 1830. This was probably to avoid confusion with the parish of Shenfield only seven miles away.

In Britton and Brayley's 1777 *Beauties of Britain – Essex* the house is referred to as 'Shenfield Hall' with the description that 'the house lay in a bottom, had many large buildings about it, and was surrounded by a moat with a drawbridge'. From *Excursions in Essex* (Vol I 1818) 'Shenfield House is said to have been one of those to which Henry VIII used to resort for the indulgence of his private pleasures. This house, situated in a bottom, was surrounded by a moat, and had a drawbridge, at the extremity of which were two strong watch-towers of brick. It had likewise a chapel adjoining. It covered a considerable spot of ground, but most of the original buildings have long been taken down.' The house received a new front early in the eighteenth century and a new west wing was added in the twentieth century.

About 1845 Killigrews was purchased by John Attwood, who added it to the Hylands estate. On 22 March 1854 Killigrews was advertised for sale as part of the Hylands Park Estate.

According to the 1854 sales particulars (ERO SALE/B5167) Killegrews at that time comprised 242 acres. The estate was referred to as Killegrew Farm and was in the occupation of Mr Thomas Hodges. The seven bedroomed house was surrounded by an ancient moat: also included in the sale were the barns, piggery, cow house, bullock house, granary, and a chaise house with brew house attached.

Miller Christy, in his article on Killegrews in the *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society 1916*, described the general layout of the estate, with its broad moat and corner turrets, as 'having been one of those semi-fortified manor houses which were built in England during the Wars of the Roses, or shortly after their close, when, owing to the extremely disturbed state of the country, no gentleman's seat was considered safe without certain defensive works'. Miller Christy also wrote 'that the moat was roughly ninety yards square and fed by land springs, the surplus water draining into the river Wid. Each side of the moat was forty or fifty feet wide. Between the main moat and the river was an enclosure, now an orchard, about an acre in extent, surrounded by a second, but much narrower, moat. At one time, the approach to the house was by a drive which crossed the bridge and ran straight for about a quarter of a mile, before it joined the 'Great Road', but since the building of the Great Eastern Railway, which crosses the line of this old drive, it has been done away with, and a new drive has been made a little more to the northward, joining the 'Great Road' close to the corner of Hylands Park. The small island-garden immediately surrounding the house has all the charm which only an old garden, tended with care by a gardener possessing both means and good taste, can ever acquire. In spring its lilacs, climbing roses, and laburnums overhang the old brick walls of the moat and are reflected in the water below. A very old filbert tree, one of a row, has probably a larger bole than any other in existence, having a circumference of about three feet. In the front, a very thick hedge of large clipped box trees, probably several centuries old, lines the walls of the moat; and, in chinks of these ancient walls, grow a profusion of wallflowers, snap dragons, pellitory, and other wall loving plants. Outside the house moat are other gardens, orchards, kitchen gardens and outhouses.'

In 1920 Killigrews was sold as part of the Hylands Estate. The sales particulars (ERO D/F 33/4/70 19 December 1920) refer to the garden as being a 'delightful old-world garden, artistically laid out, a feature being the rhododendrons and other flowering shrubs, the yews, boxwood trees, etc., rose walk, bowers, rock garden, tennis lawns and conservatory. There is an excellent kitchen garden, for the most part walled in, well stocked with choice selection of fruit trees. The orchard is similarly stocked. The residence is well screened by a belt of trees and shrubs and at the entrance to the carriage drive stand a pair of well built and slated lodges' Killigrews was at this time let to R.C.Morgan, Esq on a lease for a term of 14 years from 25 March 1913. The size of the estate in 1920 was 21 acres.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM AND SETTING

Killigrews stands on the boundary between the parishes of Widford and Margaretting. About three miles from the stations of both Chelmsford and Ingatestone, it lies nearly half a mile to the east of the great Roman road from London to Colchester, and on very low ground beside the small stream known as the Wid, which here divides the parishes of Widford and Margaretting from that of Chelmsford.

ENTRANCES & APPROACHES

At one time the approach to the house was by a shorter drive which, leaving the front of the house, crossed the bridge and ran straight for about a quarter of a mile, when it joined the A414; but, since the building of the Great Eastern Railway which crosses the line of this old drive, it has been abandoned, though traces of it are still obvious, and a new drive has been made a little more to the north, joining the A414 near the corner of Hylands Park.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

Killigrews is listed by English Heritage as Grade II*. Originally an early sixteenth century moated manor house built by John Berdefield, the house was refronted in red brick and altered in 1714 by William Alexander of Shenfield. In the twentieth century a wing was added to the east side, in eighteenth century style matching the west block.

GARDEN & PLEASURE GROUNDS

Beautiful six acres garden with sweeping lawns leading down to River Wid. Formal Garden with shrubs, trees, perennials, surrounded by yew hedging with stunning topiary. (Red Cross literature) A grass path leads across the moat at the rear of the house to a circular lawned area edged with herbaceous beds and through attractively shaped yew hedges to another lawned area. This leads across the grass to more topiary hedges and a flight of steps to an area of grass and trees culminating in the garden's boundary, the River Wid.

To the side of the house is a mock Elizabeth garden which has been attractively laid out with topiary bushes, shrubs and herbaceous plants and a brick archway with climbing plants. In the corner of this garden is a brick summer house.

The inner gardens are attractively planted and surround the house.

MOAT

English Heritage Grade II*. On the west side of the house the moat is crossed by a modern bridge and the moat has brick walls and some of them, particularly on the inner face, are of early sixteenth century brick with black brick diapering. The north western and south western angles have octagonal corner turrets with moulded brick buses and crocketed brick pinnacles above moulded brick cornices. The outer faces have loop openings.

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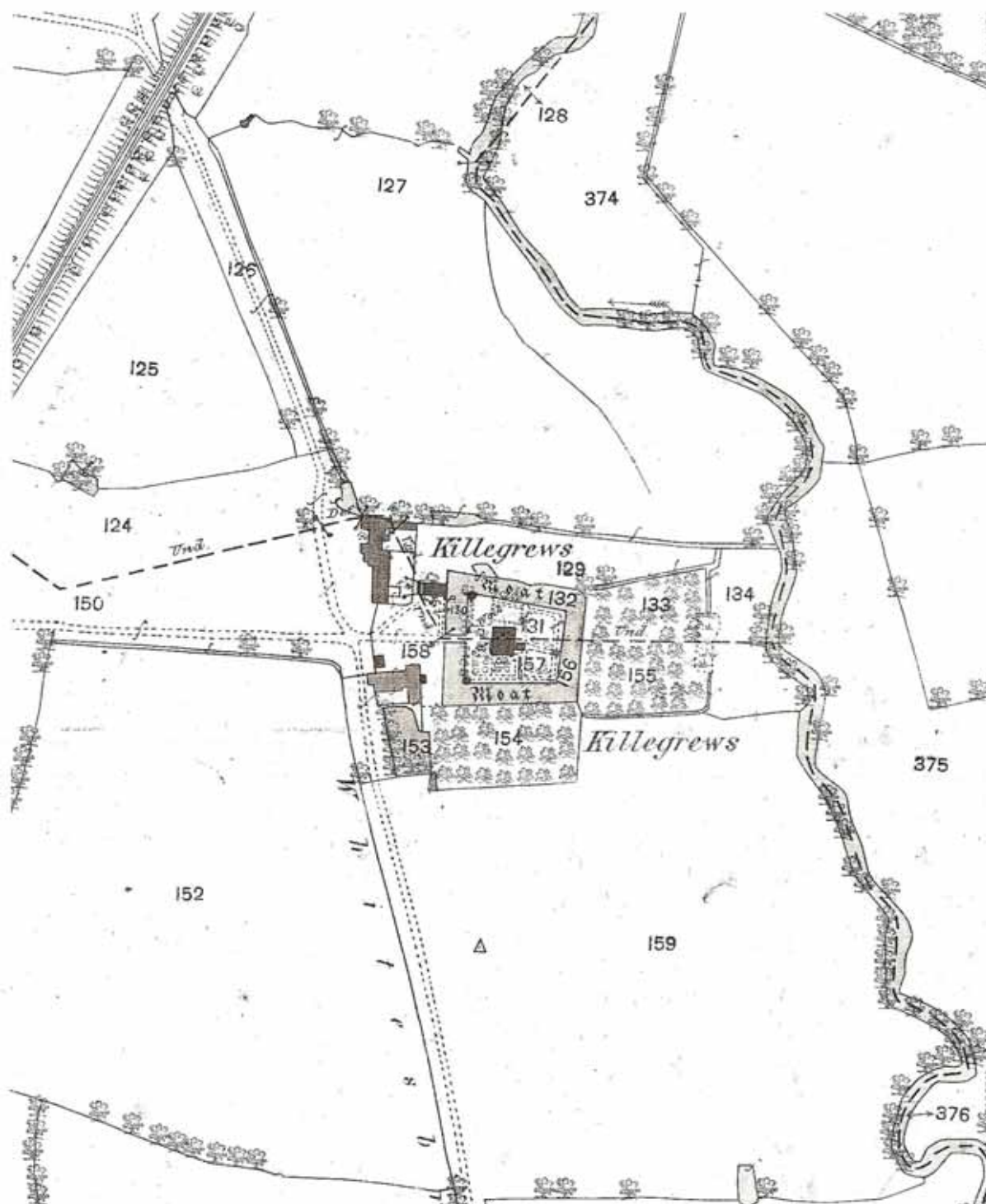
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Killegrews
 Ordnance Survey map 1st edition 25" to the mile sheet 52.15
 (reproduced with the kind permission of the Essex Record Office)

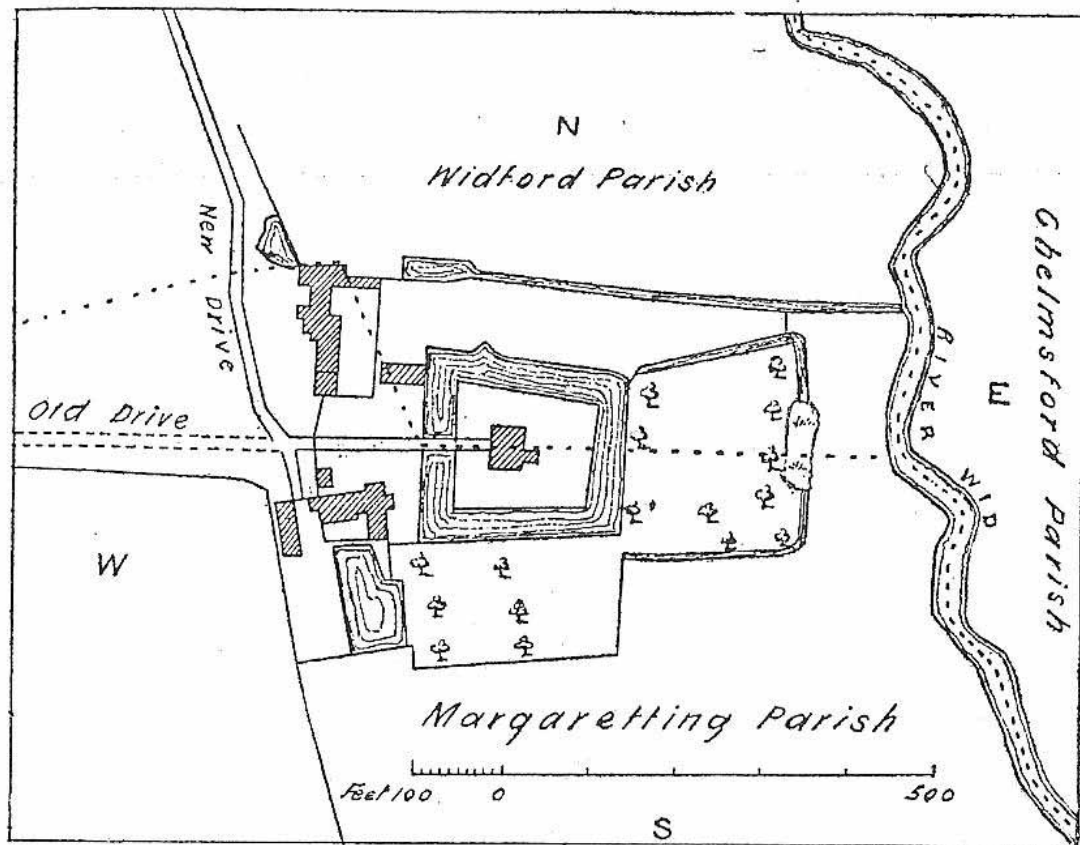


FIG. 1.—KILLEGREWS: GROUND-PLAN OF HOUSE, MOAT, AND SURROUNDINGS.

Killegrews

Plan from Miller Christy's 1916 article in *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society* Volume XIV Part 3 p166-172 showing the positions of the old and new drives.



Moat and Turret

Late C19 formal gardens, with C20 additions, set in an early C18 park and woodland for which Charles Bridgeman produced designs, with early C19 alterations possibly by Humphry Repton.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The original house at Langleys is of uncertain date, but it belonged to the Everard family in the C16. In 1711 it was acquired, along with 87 acres (c 36ha) of land, by Samuel Tufnell who, according to Morant (1768), was the son of a very rich and eminent London merchant. Tufnell demolished part of the mansion and rebuilt the house in its present form, to designs by William Tufnell (resident architect at Westminster Abbey, no relationship proved). Whilst work on the house was underway Charles Bridgeman (d 1738) was commissioned to lay out the grounds, although apart from a receipt confirming he was paid £156 7s 2d for the work, no further documents or plans survive to give any detail of what was done (Account book, ERO). During the mid C18 Muilman records that the late possessor of Langleys, Samuel Tufnell Esq had 'made a good park round [the house and] laid out pleasant gardens' (Muilman 1769). Chapman and Andre's county map of 1777 provides the first cartographic evidence of the layout of the grounds. Samuel was succeeded in 1758 by his son John Joliffe Tufnell I, and he by his second son, William, in 1794. Writing in *Observations on the Theory and Practice ... of landscape gardening* in 1803, Humphry Repton lists Langleys amongst the sites for which he had produced a Red Book but although a book of farm accounts together with a parish survey map of 1810/16 record developments in the park and garden between 1803 and 1807, no other evidence survives to link Repton to this work. During this period part of the river was ornamented, new plantations were made, a new road cut through the park, and possibly pleasure gardens and the wilderness planted (Estate accounts, ERO). When William Joliffe died in 1814, his son John Joliffe Tufnell II succeeded to the estate and in 1827 he commissioned Charles Robert Cockerell to enlarge the house. John Joliffe II was in turn succeeded by his son John Joliffe III, and the OS 25" map published in 1875 shows that by this date the park had been extended and an elaborate parterre garden had been laid out to the east of the house, all created under J Joliffe III's direction (CL 1905). Colonel W Neville Tufnell succeeded his father in 1894, and under his stewardship the grounds and the park were retained. Colonel Tufnell died in 1922 and was succeeded by de Hirzel Tufnell who lived at Langleys until his death in December 1935. In January 1936 he was succeeded by John Joliffe Tufnell IV who continued to plan and develop the gardens. The site remains (2000) in single private ownership.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Langleys lies c 8km to the north of Chelmsford, set to the east of the road leading from the A130 to the B1008 Chelmsford to Little Waltham road, on the north-east edge of Great Waltham village. The c 63ha site is set in a mainly rural location, bounded to the west and north by the A130 to B1008 link, and to the south and east by farmland. The ground at

Langleys is generally level with a slight slope downwards from the house to the north, towards the River Chelmer, and south towards the Walthamby Brook which flows east to join the Chelmer c600m east-south-east of the house.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

South Lodge (listed grade II) lies c 300m to the south of the house, on the A130 to B1008 link road. This red-brick and stucco two-storey building is contemporary with the house, having been built by Samuel Tufnell in c 1719. The drive runs north though the park to join the west drive, both turning east to arrive at the gravelled forecourt below the west front, in an arrangement recorded on the early C19 parish map. West Lodge (built 1960s) also lies on the A130 to B1008 link road, c 400m to the north-west of the house. The drive divides at the Lodge, the northern arm running south-east directly to the stable block on the north side of the house, while the southern arm curves through the park to meet up with the south drive c 150m west of the west front. This division of the west drive dates from the mid C19, prior to which it ran directly to the stable block. On the north side of the stable block, c 100m north-east of the house, stands the early Victorian North Lodge beside a waterfall on the banks of the River Chelmer. A further lodge, added during the Edwardian period c 600m east of the house was demolished and rebuilt in 1990.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

Langleys (listed grade I) is a red-brick country mansion, built to an H-plan in three storeys. The entrance front on the west has wings projecting at the north and south ends and a central doorway and window-piece with Ionic pilasters and garland ornamentation. The garden front to the east is similar to the west front but with only slightly projecting side wings. Langleys was rebuilt on the site of an earlier house between 1710 and 1719 to designs by William Tufnell for Samuel Tufnell. It incorporates the north wing of the early C17 house.

On the south side of the house stands the Laundry (listed grade II), a rectangular red-brick building with rusticated brick quoins, built by Samuel Tufnell at the same time as the house. On the north-east side of the house stand the two-storey, red-brick and tile stables (listed grade II) which date from the C17, with considerable C19 alterations.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The garden lies to the south and east of the house, with the wooded pleasure grounds running north along the banks of the River Chelmer. A wide gravel terrace runs the length of the east front. A flight of steps aligned on the central garden door lead down to the late C19 Dutch Garden, composed of a complex box parterre with gravel paths through it. The gardens were much simplified in 1946 and now (2000) sit on a lawn bordered to the east by a low retaining wall. In the centre of the wall a large, low flight of semi-circular steps leads down to a long lawn flanked by an avenue of cypress trees and mixed shrubs which terminates at a canal c180m east of the house. A canal is shown on the 1777 county map (Chapman and Andre) at the end of an elaborate formal garden which had disappeared by the early C19, leaving only a ha-ha thought to date from the Bridgeman period (Inspector's Report 1988). The existing canal, which was lined with concrete in the mid C20, may have been part of Charles Bridgeman's work although the map evidence is not conclusive in locating the exact position of the C18 canal. The east garden is bordered to the north by a brick wall dividing it from the stable buildings to the north. A row of mature lime runs along the garden side of this wall.

The lawn at the southern end of the Dutch Garden, to the east of the Laundry and the wall enclosing the drying ground, is planted with a variety of shrubs. It is bordered to the south by

the north wall of the kitchen garden which is entered through a gateway at the south-west end of the lawn. Beyond the west wall of the kitchen garden is the walled drying ground reached via the Laundry which now (2000) contains a swimming pool, built in 1939.

The pleasure grounds lie on the north side of the stables and consist of walks through woodland planted on the banks of the River Chelmer. The walks pass several features including the remains of a thatched icehouse and are shown as wooded on all the maps of the park from 1777 onwards. Ornamental works were carried out to the river at the beginning of the C19 when a waterfall was created, together with a sluice c 100m above it, used to divert the water thus making a small island. Earthworks in the park immediately to the south of the pleasure grounds are evident in the form of two raised banks with flattened tops with a ditch in between. These may represent part of the Bridgeman layout (ibid).

PARK

The park at Langleys surrounds the house on all sides apart from the area to the north-east beyond the River Chelmer. The north-west section, added during the C19, is bounded to the west and north by the mid C19 Howe Street Plantation which encloses pasture fields. Close to the river are late C20 cricket-bat willow beds. The old deer park lies to the west of the house and is retained as pasture, well covered with parkland trees including ash, horse chestnut, oak, and cedar, together with a walnut avenue planted in the mid-1950s. This area is shown as parkland on the 1777 Chapman and Andre county map and it is here that Charles Bridgeman's designs were carried out.

The south-east section of the park is divided by Walthamby Brook which comes through the village and runs into the park to the north-west of South Lodge, exiting through Whites Plantation on the eastern boundary. The southern part of this area was under arable production up until the mid C19 when the park was extended and has, in the C20, been returned to farmland.

Immediately to the east of the house, beyond the canal, the view into the park from the gardens towards Chatham Hall looks over farmland scattered with a few mature trees. Up until the mid C19, the park extended in this direction only as far as the River Chelmer, but was extended in the late C19 as far as Chatham Hall. The boundary between the two properties however is not defined on the OS 6" map of 1874. The boundary of the site here registered lies just to the west of the river.

KITCHEN GARDEN

The walled kitchen garden lies c 60m to the south-east of the house and is divided by paths into areas used for the production of fruit, vegetables, and flowers. There are six entrances to the garden, the main one being in the north-west corner, marked by an ornamental iron gate flanked by railings attached to tall red-brick piers surmounted by eagles. The walled garden, which was built to accompany the 1719 house, was, according to map evidence, twice its present size until the early C19.

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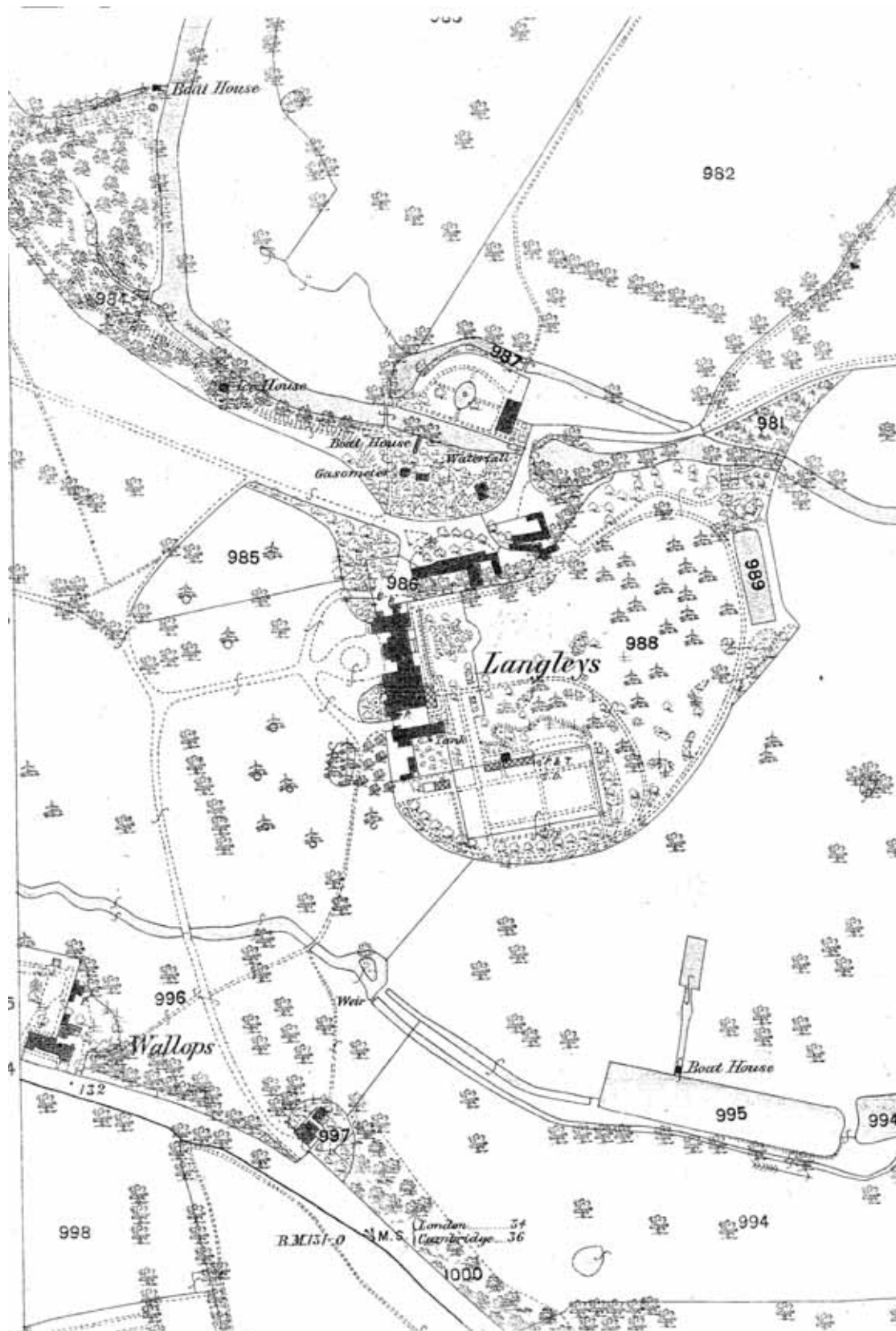
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Description written: November 2000 Amended: February 2001 Register Inspector: EMP

Edited: September 2001



25 inch first edition ordnance survey map of Langleys 1874 – sheet 43.4
(reproduced with the kind permission of the Essex Record Office)

TL 701 185

The site of a former Austin Canons monastery with its own 100 acre monastic park. After the dissolution Sir Richard Rich built a new mansion and pleasure grounds, and added high status parks to the west and south. After the demolition of most of the mansion, and the reversion of both house and the parks to agricultural use in C18, the surviving Tudor buildings and garden were restored to country house use in 1908-15 by Chancellor & Son of Chelmsford

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The date of the foundation of Leez Priory is unknown but it was in existence by the end of the twelfth century. Over the next two centuries the priory steadily acquired property; though much of this was in Suffolk and further afield in Essex, there were significant acquisitions in the adjoining parishes of Little and Great Leighs, Felsted and Little Waltham. In 1381 the prior was granted a license to enclose 100 acres of land and wood in Little Leighs to make a park (CPR 4 Rich 11, 608). The location and boundaries of this park have not been identified, but it was probably largely, or entirely, within the parish of Little Leighs. Nothing is known about the monastic precinct, except that it was probably protected from flooding by a defensive bank along the side of the nearby River Ter to the north (Clapham 1914, 215).

The priory was dissolved in 1536 and swiftly granted, on 27 May of the same year, to Sir Richard Rich (c1496-1567), together with various properties belonging to the priory, including the manors of Great and Little Leighs, and two manors in Felsted. Rich was a ruthless acquirer of recycled monastic property, and an equally ruthless destroyer of other men's reputations when it suited him or his master, the king. The grant provides no information about the priory 'park' of 1381 which possibly no longer existed at that date (L&P Henry VIII, x, 1015, 33). What is clear is that Rich set about converting the priory estate into one of his principal residences, with the demolition of the majority of the priory buildings and the construction of a very substantial brick mansion, built round two courtyards, one of which was faced with stone. The surviving stone conduit (much restored) in the inner courtyard was constructed from re-used fragments of medieval masonry on a Tudor brick base. Rich also acquired land in the neighbouring parishes in order to create two new parks, both of which are shown on Norden's map of 1594. The house remained the principal seat of his direct descendants (subsequently created earls of Warwick) until the death of the last earl in 1673.

Such a mansion would have required a suitably grand setting. No plans or images of the parks and gardens have survived but a visitor to the 2nd earl of Warwick (d.1658) noted the magnificence of his house and its surroundings, adding 'My lord, you had need make sure of heaven or else, when you die, you will be a great loser' (Addison 1973, 156). The 4th earl's funeral sermon in 1673 was preached by Dr Anthony Walker who, as private chaplain to Lady Mary Warwick, would have known the estate well. Though allowance has to be made for funeral oratory, he described it as 'a secular elysium, a worldly paradise, an heaven upon earth, if there be any such' (Anon 1769, 348).

Some information about the Tudor gardens near the house was provided by excavations in the early C20. Adjoining the inner courtyard to the east (but set at an angle to it) was a brick

walled privy garden with a small square gatehouse with octagonal turrets in the north wall, and octagonal summer houses (probably of two storeys) at the northeast and the southeast corners. There was a central circular cistern, and a small gateway in the south wall. Immediately north of the privy garden there was a brick bridge over the River Ter to a footpath to Little Leighs church. It also gave access to 'The Wilderness' which was referred to in the diary of Lady Mary Warwick (1625-1678) as the place in which, winter and summer, she spent two hours each morning in meditation and prayer. The Wilderness was periodically coppiced, and contained walks and an arbour. (Smith 1901, 107, 231, 326, 336; ER ii, 41). It is marked as a rectangular enclosure with outward curving ends on the first edition of the 25" OS map.

North of the walled garden there was a bowling green, and a free-standing banqueting house (Clapham 1914, 216). Between the mansion and the last of the chain of lakes of Pond Park was another walled garden which now contains a large pond, with the C16 'Fisherman's Hut' at its northwest corner. However this piece of water is not shown on Chapman & Andre's map and may be a later addition. Undated C17 draft accounts for Leez give some idea of the expenses of maintaining the garden and parks - 'garden charges' were £120, the pond and park keepers cost £20 and £30 respectively, and £10 was spent on palings, presumably for the deer park (ERO D/DU 1509/1).

Information about the surrounding parks can be obtained from various sources. Letters patent of 1595 refer to 'Ponde Park' at Leez (ERO D/DB L1/12/1). When the house was raided for weapons by Royalist forces in 1648, the earl's steward noted that at least 100 deer had been killed by the soldiers 'in the three parks about the house' (Peck 1779, 481). Morant, writing after the estate had reverted to agricultural use, noted that there had been 'three very considerable parks' here, in the parishes of Little Leighs, Felsted and Great Waltham. He referred to Pond Park of about 413 acres (incorrectly described as being sited 'round the house'), and Little or Littley Park of about four miles in circumference in the parish of Great Waltham. He did not identify the third park which might have been the one in Little Leighs parish enclosed by the prior in 1381 (Morant 1768, ii, 100-1). A detailed lease of Leez Priory Farm in 1779 showed that 122 acres of the farm was in Little Leighs parish (ERO D/DGh E15/3). Perhaps this represented the site of the prior's park.

In or soon after 1556, Richard Rich acquired Littley (or Little Lee) Park, a medieval deer park first mentioned in an inquisition of 1336 (Reaney 1935, 271). This park, of roughly rectangular shape and about 260 hectares in area, was sited in the parish of Great Waltham, to the south west of his mansion. He added additional land to extend this park northwards to his new house, providing him with a new access from the Chelmsford/Dunmow road to the south. The northern section of this drive is dead straight (perhaps constructed by Rich), but the southern part curves across the valley floor, and may be part of an older access route to the medieval park lodge in the centre of the park. It crosses the River Chelmer flood plain on a shallow causeway of unknown date. A later descendant of Rich planted an elm avenue along this access route, perhaps following the example of the great avenue at New Hall, Boreham. Recent studies of Littley Park have found parts of the medieval park pale marked by species-rich hedges, and what was probably the C15 park lodge, extended in the late C16 and further modified in the C19 (now Littley Park house). The park was still being used for hunting deer in the mid C17 and, even though the southern and western parts had been disparked by 1723, the northern part in 1753 was still 'inclosed within pale and rail and fully stockt with deer'. (Hunter 1994a, 119-123; Peck 1779, 475; Watkin 1994, 129-131).

Rich's second park, Pond Park, was to the north, in the parish of Felsted, and consisted of a chain of 12 substantial lakes, running for 2kms along the course of the infant River Ter. Only one of these still holds water, but the remaining sections of the other dams (as well as the diversionary channel which took the Ter up the side of the valley for 2.5kms) show that this was a very large undertaking. The lakes were identified as fishponds by Morant and numerous later authorities, and as millponds by the RCHM. However their scale is totally disproportionate to either function (and without precedent for monastic fishponds), and it is clear that they were created as part of a spectacular high status landscape. The steward's evidence from 1647-8 indicates that this park was paled and that deer were kept here (Peck 1779, 477, 481). 'Deer house Field' is recorded on a map of 1775 (ERO D/DZ 19). The same map shows a 'Decoy Field' suggesting that this part may have been used for trapping wildfowl before the chain of lakes lost their water. However there can be little doubt that the principal function of this landscape was to demonstrate the status of its new owner. Rich appears to have had a particular affinity towards the parish of Felsted, as he founded the school and the almshouses there, and was buried in a sumptuous tomb in the church. With Pond Park, he also left a spectacular mark on the Felsted landscape.

After the failure of the 4th earl (d.1673) to produce a male heir, the estate passed to a nephew, the earl of Manchester. By 1722 it had been sold to the dowager duchess of Buckinghamshire and was described as 'an ancient house in the middle of a beautiful park' (Defoe 1722). By the middle of the C18 it had been purchased by Guy's Hospital. The new owners demolished most of Rich's mansion, leaving only the massive gate tower which stood between the two original courts, and part of the service courtyard range to provide accommodation for the tenant farmer. The parkland was returned to agricultural use and the chain of lakes in Pond Park were dry when surveyed in 1775 (ERO D/DZ 19). It is interesting that this survey shows a very irregular pattern of fields, suggesting that the boundary hedges from a much earlier period had been retained by Rich when he laid out Pond Park – possibly as cover for game, or for the management of the deer (Hunter 1994b, 116).

Very little is known about the immediate surroundings of the mansion site during its use as a tenanted farm. Chapman and Andre's map of 1777 shows an enclosed garden just to the west of the house, and a rectangular pond - the southernmost of the chain of lakes forming Pond Park. There are two short lines of trees immediately to the southeast of the house, possibly a relic of former parkland. Two decades later the first edition of the 1" OS map showed the pond but by this date there was a half mile long avenue running north/south to the east of the house, apparently connected to a rectangular enclosure on the north bank of the River Ter. As Leez was only a tenanted farm by this time, these landscape features were probably added by Leighs Lodge which adjoined the Leez estate just to the north and added a large lake just to the east of Leez in the late C19 or early C20.

The house was acquired in 1905 by Montagu Edward Hughes-Hughes who commissioned Chancellor and Sons, the Chelmsford architects, to restore the house (Bettley & Pevsner 2007, 532-3). The surviving drawings do not show if the architect was responsible for the layout of the garden (ERO D/F 8/263) but the possibility remains; the firm certainly had some involvement with designing features in gardens at Beeleigh Abbey and at Creeksea Place, both houses that were being restored and improved for their new wealthy owners (Leach 2010, 11 & 32).

The former parkland is now in agricultural use and in the late 1980s the house was bought by the Country House Weddings Group and was one of the first to be approved for civil weddings.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, LANDFORM AND SETTING

The mansion and pleasure grounds are on the floor of the Ter valley, with the river running along the north edge, possibly in a man-made channel. Lodge Lake and Lavender Lake (not part of the Leez estate) lie to the east, and Pond Park to the west, running along the curving course of the Ter. Littley Park lies to the south east, as far as the A130 Chelmsford to Dunmow Road, and is cut through by the valley of the River Chelmer. Between the two valleys the ground rises to a little over 70m. The third park cannot be identified, but the total area of the three parks would have been about 400 h.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

Today the house lacks a grand approach and is approached by small country lanes from various directions. The access to the outer gatehouse of the main house is flanked by two brick buildings (one probably contemporary with the main house, the other slightly later), later converted into barns by the removal of the internal first floor. These were probably originally stables with lodgings above. The original grand approach to the house was from Crow Gate on the Chelmsford/Dunmow road and it can still be followed on a bridleway named the Causeway. It curves down through Littley Park to cross the floor of the valley of the River Chelmer on a low bank which has been partly erased by modern agriculture. The bridge is a modern utilitarian structure of brick and concrete. The route curves up to, and then beyond, the park lodge to reach a large flat plateau. Here it runs dead straight on a low embankment. At the northern edge of the plateau, the towers and roofs of Leez Priory, and the chain of lakes in Pond Park in the valley of the River Ter, would have come dramatically into view.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

The principal part of Rich's mansion formed the inner court and was demolished in the first half of the eighteenth century, leaving only the inner three storey gate tower. Much of the outer court, containing the service buildings, was demolished at the same time, leaving only the west and part of the south range with its two storey outer gate tower. The two gate towers and the service wings are in red brick (with diaper patterns in blue bricks) and are listed Grade 1. The inner gate tower has battlemented octagonal corner turrets with machicolations, and highly ornamented brick chimney stacks. The conduit in the former inner courtyard, and the two brick barns immediately to the south of the mansion, are listed Grade II.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

These are most easily described in compartments from west to east.

- i) There is a moderate sized lake immediately east of the road to Willows Green. This is retained by a substantial dam and is probably the last of the chain of lakes forming Pond Park.
- ii) Between the dam and the buildings of the outer court is a large area enclosed by brick walls on the north, west and south sides. The wall on the west side acts partly as a retaining wall for the dam, and has been heavily buttressed at various periods on the inside face. The walls vary between 8 and 14 feet in height and are of Tudor brick (with some later re-facing and repair). It is built in a variety of bonds, or (in places) no bond at all. Much of the wall is

coped with bricks cut and laid to form a triangular ridge, on top of a course of brickwork laid diagonally. There is a small gate (probably modern) midway along the west wall, and a large irregular opening in the same wall near its southern end where the wall reaches its maximum height. There are stump walls of a building on each side of this opening, but it is not obvious whether this was an original entrance, or a later modification when the house was used as a farm. There are C19/20 brick paths laid along beds adjacent to the north and west wall, edged with upright bricks laid diagonally. These paths are of similar alignment to those shown on the 1875 OS map. The northern half of the walled enclosure contains a roughly square pond, and at its northeast corner stands the so-called Fisherman's Hut of C16 date. This is a two storey cube of red brick with pitched tiled roof. The elevation facing the pond has no windows, but is dominated by an original and very large tapering chimney breast which is reflected in the pond. Between the Fisherman's Hut and the River Ter is F.W. Chancellor's three storey red brick water tower of 1935. The southern half of the walled garden is mown grass with a scattering of old apple and nut trees.

iii) To the east of the outer court and the inner court gatehouse stands the fountain, constructed from pieces of medieval worked stone and mounted on Chancellor's brick base. The fountain is enclosed by an evergreen hedge (clearly newly planted in the 1921 RCHM photograph) beyond which lie the poorly preserved footings of the walls of Rich's grand apartments. A broad shallow bank to the north may have been built for flood protection, and it has been suggested that it was the site of the bowling green and banqueting house. Nearby is a short flight of brick steps between low parapet walls (of C20 date) leading down to a small weir in the River Ter.

iv) East of this is a large triangular area (now partly mown, partly rough, grass) bounded by the River Ter to the north and by a line of limes planted on a raised bank (with a deep external ditch) to the south. These limes look newly planted in the 1921 RCHM photograph. Parch marks and probing revealed the lines of some of the Tudor garden walls, but nothing else is visible on the surface. The remains of the brick bridge over the Ter and the cistern within the walled garden (both noted by Clapham in 1914) could not be found. There is a small pond and wet ground in the eastern corner of this triangular area. The 1875 25" OS map shows this as 'site of Chapel' but no masonry was visible. Mature trees in this section include oak, ash, sycamore and horse chestnut. Walnut, copper beech and evergreen oak were also noted.

PARKS

There were three parks, only two of which can now be identified. The third was the monastic park and appears to have been largely or entirely in the parish of Little Leighs

Little Park lies to the south of the mansion and is now open agricultural land. There are some massive dead elm pollards just south of Little Park house (the former park lodge) and parts of the line of the medieval park pale are marked by species-rich hedges. The causeway, running for 2.5 km from the Chelmsford/Dunmow road to the mansion, is raised on a low bank where it crosses the floor of the Chelmer valley, and is similarly raised on the northern section where it climbs to a high plateau. No other ancient features are visible, but the numerous WWII pill boxes in this part of the Chelmer valley mark the GHQ line constructed in 1940.

Pond Park follows the course of the infant River Ter and lies to the west and north of the mansion. Immediately west of the house, the road runs over a substantial dam. Following the river upstream for 2 km, the remains of ten (or possibly eleven) dams can be found. These range from slight banks to substantial earthworks well over 2m high and 9m across the base. The dams have survived well on the east side of the valley bottom, but have been largely lost on the west side due to arable cultivation. An island shown on the RCHM survey can no

longer be seen. Two dams have survived intact – one carries a track across the valley to Pond Park Farm (probably the site of the deer park lodge), the other is now under the road to Cock Green. These run right across the valley floor, and the ponds must have overflowed from one to the next as there is no place for an overflow channel.

The other striking feature is the diversion of the River Ter from the valley bottom into a leet on the east side of the valley, well above the level of the former chain of lakes. This leet is about 2.5km long and still carries the river. There is a substantial retaining bank between the leet and the site of the ponds (11m wide in places) and there are traces of terracing running along parts of it. There is no evidence of culverts connecting the leet to the ponds which may have been fed by one pond overflowing into the next down the valley. This suggests that there had never been the means of managing the ponds independently, implying they were unlikely to have been intended primarily for rearing fish.

The pond immediately west of the 180⁰ curve in the Ter appears to be an angling lake of C20 construction. No surviving features of the park pale, which formerly enclosed Pond Park, were noted.

KITCHEN GARDEN

This was not identified though, judging by the apple and nut trees, part of the walled garden to the west of the house may have served this function at some time.

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Maps and images

1775 survey of Pond Park ERO D/*DZI* 9

1777 Chapman & Andre's map of Essex plate XII

1799 first edition 1" OS map

1807 engraving of Leez Priory by J. Grieg

1875 first edition 25" OS map

Research by Michael Leach.

Site visit by Michael Leach on 21 September 2010.



Pond Park from an estate map 1775
(reproduced with the kind permission of the Essex Record Office D/DZ 19)

TQ 685 983

A mid to late nineteenth century garden that still retains many of its original features.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Lilystone Hall was built in 1847 and a private chapel was added to the house in 1879 which was a simple apsed structure by Buckler. Chapman and André's 1777 map of Essex shows an earlier building on the site, the residence of Mr W Johnson.

In an extract from the will of Thomas Adler, gent, of Stock, in the year 1683 he bequeathed to his son John Adler his house called Lyllystones with all the lands belonging to it, which had been purchased from Robert Worthe, Thos Jaye and John Blatch.

In the eighteenth century three farms called Lilystones, Old Austins and Old Berries belonged to Edward Bailey and following his death they were settled in 1751 by Edith Bailey, his widow, on her marriage to Thomas Thayer. In 1758 the three farms were sold to William Prior Johnson who, during his family's ownership, changed the name of Lilystones to both Stock House and Woodlands. Lilystones Farm at this time was 'a capital messuage and farm consisting of a convenient dwelling house, now untenanted, a coach house, two stables, a bake house, brew house, dairy, dovecot and other necessary offices, a bar, cow house, hay house and cart shed, an orchard, courtyard, and about fifty-five acres'. William Prior Johnson, Esq. died in 1776 and his will was long and complicated as he did not have a son. His estate went to a grandson, James Richardson, who took the name of James Prior Johnson Richardson.

James's son, William Prior Johnson, eventually inherited the estates and in a survey report and valuation of the estates of William Prior Johnson Richardson in 1840 and 1844 (ERO D/DSa/156) Lilystone Hall, now called Stock House Farm, is described as 'an Elizabethan style house with gable ends, seated on a gentle rise of the hill within a quarter of a mile of Stock village, overlooking a very limited woody tract of county. There is a carriage sweep in front but with all the additions and repairs, decay is visible with respect of the building'. The agricultural buildings comprised a large barn, granary, cartage, stables, coach house and piggeries. Attached to the house was a large orchard and garden. The timber at this time comprised 52 oaks, 7 ash, 19 elms and 62 pollards. Mention is also made of a cottage and garden opposite the farm which belonged to the estate and divided into two tenements, wood built and tile top with a large garden. The 1841 tithe map gives the owner of Lilystones as Richardson, James Prior Johnson and the occupier was John Stock. The 1844 survey and valuation of Stock House Farm described the house and premises as 'soon running into a state of dilapidation, it is at present occupied by the working bailiff and is store rooms. In 1845 the other two estate farms, Old Austins and Old Berries (both with the changed names of Dirty Hall and Rocks Farm, were sold). A new Lilystone Hall was built in 1847. White's *History, Gazetteer and Directory of the County of Essex* in 1848 notes that W.P. Johnson, Esq., has a handsome seat called 'Woodlands' (yet another change of name) erected in 1847 at a cost of around £7,000.

An indenture was made on 3rd December 1855 between William Prior Johnson and the honorary Arthur Petre to include outbuildings, coach house, stables cottage and granary and

gardens, pleasure grounds, shrubberies and plantations, in all fifty-one acres. When the Hon Arthur Petre, fourth son of the eleventh Lord Petre, became tenant of Lilystone Hall he opened a private chapel there, available to local Catholics. The Hon Arthur married Lady Catherine Howard, 5th daughter of the Earl of Wicklow and they had ten children. They lived at Lilystone Hall until 1861 when the Hon Arthur purchased the manor of Coptfold in Margaretting. The new resident of Lilystone Hall in 1862 was another Catholic, Thomas Walmsley, brother in law to the Hon Henry Petre who was an elder brother of the Hon. Arthur. In 1867 the chapel at Lilystone Hall was dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Simon Stock but it was not until 1868 that a priest, Canon John Walker, was appointed, but his incumbency only lasted a year. In 1869 Thomas Walmsley left Lilystone Hall and in his place the Gillow family, siblings William, John, and Isabella, also Catholics, acquired Lilystone Hall and they were partly responsible for the survival of Catholicism in the village.

John Francis Gillow died in 1894 and both William and Isabella died within months of each other in 1893. Lilystone Hall was offered to the Archbishop of Westminster as a country residence but Cardinal Herbert Alfred Vaughan declined and offered it to the brother of his secretary, Monsignor Thomas Dunn. William Dunn and his family arrived at Lilystone Hall in 1895. In 1904 Mr Dunn donated a quarter of his land to All Saints to extend their churchyard. Lilystone Hall was put up for sale after the death of William Dunn in 1926 and the house passed into non Catholic hands, although the chapel remained open for public worship. Photographs of Lilystone Hall and its grounds were taken by the commercial photographer, Fred Spalding, and were put together in album entitled 'Lilystone Hall, Stock, Essex, August 1927'. These black and white photographs provide an excellent record of the house and grounds at that time. The 1931 sale catalogue (SALE/B4658) offered for sale part of Butts Lodge Estate, Stock Mill, and part of Lilystone Hall Estate and in 1932 the sale catalogue (ERO D/F 33/16/24) for Butts Lodge Farm included the sale of four enclosures of pasture land forming part of the Lilystone Hall Estate.

Sir Percival Perry, the chief representative of the Ford Motor Company, acquired Lilystone Hall in 1937 and during the war gave over part of the Hall to the Marist nuns who used it as a school. The daughter of Lord Perry's butler recalls that at this time Lilystone Hall had formal herbaceous borders, mainly for cut flowers. The great feature of the Hall was the extensive range of rhododendrons and azaleas, which suited the acidic soil and were low maintenance.

Lilystone Hall was for sale in 1973 and the sales particulars (ERO SALE/3667) of 23 October say 'the property is approached by two access driveways, each with impressive wrought iron gates. The main drive passes one of the lily ponds and between shrubs, trees and lawns, meeting the secondary drive at a wide sweep in the front of the house. To the south is a bank of rhododendrons and shrubs. The lawn slopes gently away from the house to the springed lily ponds, which form a feature of the lovely grounds. The main pond is comparatively narrow but over 330 feet in length. One end is open and the other is enclosed by masses of rhododendrons. There is an island with further rhododendrons which is reached by two bridges, one constructed of timber and the other of stone with wrought iron balustrades. A small waterfall takes the water below ground to the second beautiful pond. Close by there is a timber summerhouse which looks out over a terrace to a small ornamental pond with fountain in the shape of a heron. The lawns are lined by a superb selection of shrubs, deciduous and coniferous specimen trees which are a feature of the grounds and include beech, oak, copper beech, silver birch, ash, weeping ash, chestnut, maple, pine, fir, larch, cherry, weeping willow, large planes, and glorious cedars. Rarer species include strawberry and tulip trees. To the north of the house there are wide stone steps leading up to

the gently rising lawns. Shaded paths meander among the wilder parts of the gardens. The parkland like paddock is beyond a bank of roses which forms the western boundary of the gardens. In the paddock there are a number of mature trees and along two boundaries there are wide belts of trees. The grounds are approximately sixteen and a quarter acres (6.58 hectares).’ The sale included the four cottages built in 1933 in Lilystone Close, across the road and opposite Lilystone Hall. but part of the Lilystone estate. The estate houses in the Close had neither front nor back gardens other than grass. There was extensive orchard of mainly Cox’s orange pippins behind the houses.

An animal research establishment was built on land belonging to Lilystone Hall in Honeypot Lane and the Duke of Norfolk, President of the Animal Health Trust, laid the foundation stone in 1956. The Duke of Edinburgh opened the new buildings in 1957 afterwards taking lunch at Lilystone Hall with members of the Trust. The aim of the establishment was to research into disease of farm livestock.

Sales particulars in 1981 (ERO SALE/B6907) gives details of the fourteen converted apartments and the description of the grounds relate that twenty-two gardeners were employed to maintain the grounds in its heyday. The 1981 sales particulars mention many of the rare plants and trees, including flowering tulip trees, have survived and that the Hall stands in six acres with garages and carports arranged in two blocks positioned close to the Hall but discretely secluded.

By the time the Hall was converted into apartments the ornamental lakes and meadows had been sold and a fence divided them from the main garden. These lakes have become very overgrown and the timber bridge has disappeared although the stone one remains. Despite the loss of some of the original trees in the 1987 gales, the gardens today are well maintained and retain much of their former splendour.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Lilystone Hall is situated on the outskirts of the village of Stock off the B1007 where Stock Road meets Honeypot Lane. The Hall is approximately six miles from Chelmsford and three miles from Billericay and lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The main drive to Lilystone Hall is from Honeypot Lane and curves up to a wide sweep in front of the entrance of the house and continues to the side of the Hall and a block of garages. This drive to the front of the Hall from Honeypot Lane is lined with trees and shrubs, including two sweet chestnuts, a large spineless holly, Portuguese laurel, and near to the house entrance, a large well shaped strawberry tree, *Arbutus*, as well as an old *Acer palmatum dissectum*. A further entrance and gateway is from the B1007 Stock Road but is no longer used as a carriage drive.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

Lilystone Hall is a large grey brick house with stone parapet built in 1847 graded II by the English Heritage. The south front of the three window range, has giant stone pilasters rising through two storeys. The centre bay is surmounted by a pediment. The centre doorway has a Greek Doric portico with fluted columns and is approached by a flight of steps. At the east side is an apsidal chapel (now converted to apartments) with semi-circular headed windows with glazing bars. The windows are divided by brick pilasters and the roof is tiled.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

By the time the Hall was converted into apartments the ornamental lakes and meadows had been sold and a wire netting fence now divides them from the main garden. The lakes have been left to deteriorate: the Chinese bridge has disappeared although the stone bridge remains albeit surrounded by vegetation. Many trees and shrubs have self-seeded and their height and density now screen what was once a splendid view from the Hall's lofty position across the lakes and fields. The mass of rhododendrons at the far end of the lake mentioned in the 1976 sales particulars still remain and are a magnificent feature of the grounds. One early flowering rhododendron (poss. *R. Bounty*), which blooms in January, has been identified by Kew as a specimen no longer obtainable.

Although a large number of the mature trees still remain many were lost in the 1987 hurricane. Two majestic Cedar of Lebanon trees were among the casualties: these took pride of place in the gently rising lawn at the rear of the house, reached by wide stone steps flanked at the top by urns on pedestals. A magnificent mulberry tree was another casualty of the hurricane. Today, among the trees lining the lawns are *Robinia pseudacacia*, a very old oak tree, a large Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) with a very wide trunk, and the one remaining Cedar of Lebanon. A second large Tulip tree is no longer in the Lilystone grounds but just the other side of the wire netting. At the top of the lawn are several old azalea bushes which still give a splendid show when flowering, and a self-seeded Tulip tree. On the eastern side of the lawn, paths meander among shrubberies which are lined with Portuguese laurel (*Prunus lusitanica*) while along the lawn edge are mature trees including an evergreen oak and a very old strawberry tree, *Arbutus*, which covers a large area but is suffering from its age although many suckers have grown to provide an even greater spread. Many tall pines line the banks of the grounds where it borders the B1007, Stock Road and a beautiful copper beech survives at the side of the house by the road. Immediately to the rear of the house is a *Magnolia grandiflora*.

KITCHEN GARDEN

The glasshouse at the top of the kitchen garden has been replaced with a garden shed and the edging of the old asparagus bed in front of it can still be seen, but no longer is used for asparagus growing. The large area of the vegetable garden has now been grassed over and the hedge edging the vegetable beds nearest the roadside and running down towards the house is of bamboo.

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20th century Fred Spalding postcard of Lilystone Hall and its grounds with the lake in the foreground.
1927 Album of photographs taken by Fred Spalding specifically for Lilystone Hall.
20th century calendar postcard of Lilystone Hall with the lake in the foreground.

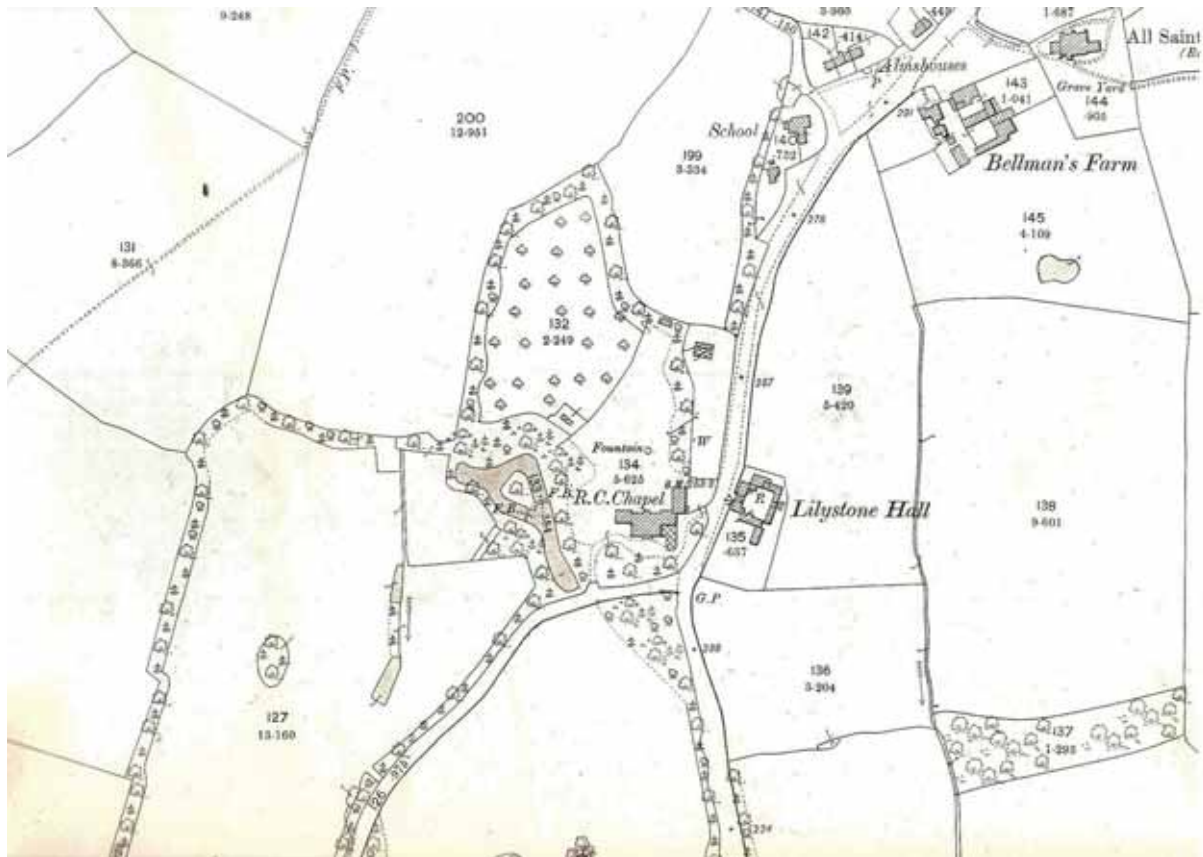
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Researcher: Jill Plater
Site Visit: Jill Plater March 2011



Lilystone Hall 25" ordnance survey map 2nd edition sheet 60-11 1896
(reproduced by kind permission of the Essex Record Office)



LILYSTONE HALL GARDEN IN 1927
(photo by Fred Spalding – in private collection)

TL 693 176

An early medieval deer park which was one of Pleshey Castle's detached parks. It was acquired in the mid sixteenth century by Sir Richard Rich to extend his park at Leeze Priory, and to provide a new access route to his mansion from the south; it was disparked in at least two stages in the eighteenth century.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Littleley (anciently Littlehey) Park dates back to at least the thirteenth century, as a detached park belonging to Pleshey Castle. There is evidence that it was laid out at an early period when it was possible to adjust roads and boundaries on the perimeter to fit the owner's aspirations. In 1298 it was held by Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Hereford, as part of the Pleshey Castle estates, and by one of his heirs in 1376 (CPR 50 Edward III, 279; Hunter 1994, 119). The first specific reference to its function as a deer park was in an inquisition of 1336 (Reaney 1935, 271). When the male line failed, the Pleshey estates passed by marriage to Thomas Woodstock, duke of Gloucester. In 1397 he was lured from the castle by Richard II, and abducted and assassinated on the directions of the king. Though his widow eventually regained much of her husband's other property, the Pleshey estates were transferred to the Duchy of Lancaster, and became the property of the crown. They subsequently formed part of the jointures of the queens of Henry V, Henry VI and Edward IV.

At an unknown date, Littleley Park may have been acquired by the Warner family who owned the adjoining manor of Warners (variously Walls or Warleys) sited on the other side of the Great Waltham to Dunmow road. The manor, probably owned by the Warner family since at least 1365, remained in the family until the death of Henry Warner in 1556, though its exact relationship with Littleley Park remains unclear (Reaney 1935, 18; Morant 1765, 84-5). The acreage given in various Inquisitions Post Mortem of the manorial owners is too small to include the park. Soon after the death of Henry Warner in 1556, both manor and park were acquired by Sir Richard Rich and the park was extended northwards to connect it to the mansion and pleasure grounds of Leeze Priory. The venerability of the medieval deer park would have been apparent to any educated Tudor visitor, and would have endowed its parvenu owner with status and respectability. According to Morant, in the park 'there is, or lately was' a chapel built of timber, on the left hand side of the causeway leading from Leeze to Great Waltham, just opposite 'the Lodge' (i.e. the farmhouse now named Littleley Park) (Morant 1768, ii, 84-5). This chapel, one of two in the parish of Great Waltham, is referred to as Little Chapel in an inquisition of 1650, and at that date was 'discontinued and Converted to Common Uses; unto which Anciently belonged Certaine Lands and tythes of some considerable value' (Smith 1933, 258). Disputes concerning this chapel, its lands and its associated tithes were not finally resolved until 1818.

The parish and hundred boundary follow the line of the northern limit of the medieval park, suggesting that the latter already existed when the former were delineated. Rich extended Littleley Park northwards to the southern edge of Leeze, increasing its total area to about 260 hectares. The age of the causeway, running from the Dunmow road at Crow Gate to Leeze Priory, is not known but its raised bank would have assisted the crossing of the flood plain of the River Chelmer in wet weather. The Duchy of Lancaster accounts show that a wooden bridge was built (or extensively repaired) in 1464/5 in Littleley Park; it seems very likely that

this was the bridge that carried the causeway across the Chelmer, providing access from Pleshey Castle to the lodge in Littley Park. The present farmhouse (now confusingly called Littley Park) is appropriately sited for a medieval parker's lodge, and structural evidence shows an unusual building providing lodgings, the earliest parts of which date from about 1470. It was probably intended for overnight accommodation for hunting parties, as well as a residence for the parker himself. The Duchy of Lancaster accounts show that the park lodge was being rethatched in 1464/5 (Ryan 2010, 281, 286).

The northern half of the causeway is dead straight, and was probably constructed by Rich to complete the route to his house and to provide a dramatic approach from the south. This upland section is also on a low raised bank which serves no practical function, other than to reinforce the status of its owner, and to emphasize the dramatic view of the roofs and towers of Leez on reaching the crest of the hill.

One of Rich's heirs, the 2nd earl of Warwick (1587-1658), planted an elm avenue along the full 2.5kms of the causeway, perhaps following the example of the great avenue at nearby New Hall, Boreham which was planted in 1624 under the direction of John Tradescant. The last heavily pollarded survivors succumbed to Dutch elm disease in the 1970s, but a few enormous dead bollings survive. The park was still being used for hunting deer in the mid seventeenth century and, even though the southern and western parts had been disparked by 1723, the northern part in 1753 was still 'inclosed within pale and rail and fully stockt with deer' (Hunter 1994, 119-123; Peck 1779, 475; Watkin 1994, 129-131).

The 4th earl of Essex died in 1673 without a male heir, so the estate passed to a nephew, the earl of Manchester. By 1722 it had been sold to the dowager duchess of Buckinghamshire and was described as 'an ancient house in the middle of a beautiful park' (Defoe 1722). By this date the southern and western part of the park had already been disparked. By the middle of the eighteenth century, it had been purchased by Guy's Hospital. The new owners demolished most of Rich's mansion, and returned the remaining parkland to agricultural use. After the Second World War, most of the hedges planted as part of the eighteenth century disparking were removed in order to create the large open fields required by modern farming (Hunter 1994, 119-24).

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, LANDFORM AND SETTING

The park is in the NE corner of Great Waltham parish and lies on the SW and NE sides of the valley of the River Chelmer. It is bounded to the W by the Hartford End road (B 1417), to the E by an unclassified road to Littley Green, to the S by the Chelmsford/Great Dunmow road (A 130) and to the N by Leez Lane, covering an area of about 260 h. A track named the Causeway runs NNE through the park, from Crows Gate on the A130 to the southern entrance to Leez Priory. Another track runs NW/SE from Priors Gate to Littley Green. The tracks intersect at Littley Park, and the section from the farmhouse to Littley Green is now metalled.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The modern road to Littley Park house from Hartford End was only adopted after the Second World War. The earlier intersecting trackways which crossed at the farmhouse are described above.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

The principal building is now called Littley Park. Examination of this timber-framed building shows that it was built in three stages. The first construction of six bays runs N to S. and is dated to about 1470. This originally had four heated chambers accessed from a central stair and lobby. In about 1585 a wing was added at right angles to the west with two heated chambers, and in the C17 a building constructed from re-used timbers was built northwards from the original house. This final extension may have provided stables, with a granary and hay loft above. Though in the right position for a parker's lodge, the building is more typical of lodgings associated with a medieval hall, so it may have served both functions.

Crow Gate cottage, at the southern end of the causeway, is a thatched timber framed building, dating from between 1570 and 1590 (Watkin 1994, 128-133).

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The garden of Littley Park (originally park lodge and then farmhouse) is mostly open lawn and is of little historic interest.

PARK

Littley Park lies to the south of the mansion and is now open agricultural land. There are some massive dead elm pollards just south of Littley Park farmhouse (the former park lodge) and parts of the line of the medieval park pale are marked by species-rich hedges. No traces of the pale itself were found, other than a low bank of uncertain date to the east of Crow Gate. Part of the original northern edge of the park, which ran along the hundred boundary, is marked by a deep ditch, a low bank and another ancient hedge. However most of this boundary has been cleared and flattened by the plough. The most distinctive remaining feature is the causeway, running for 2.5 km from the Chelmsford/Dunmow road to the mansion, is raised on a low bank where it crosses the floor of the Chelmer valley, and is similarly raised on the northern section where it climbs to a high plateau. It is between 0.5m and 2m above the surrounding land, highest at the point where it crosses the river Chelmer. There is now only a utilitarian concrete slab bridge at the crossing point. No other ancient features are visible, but the numerous WWII pill boxes in this part of the Chelmer valley are a reminder of the GHQ line constructed in 1940.

KITCHEN GARDEN

This has not been identified. There may have been a modest enclosure adjoining the lodge for the benefit of the parker.

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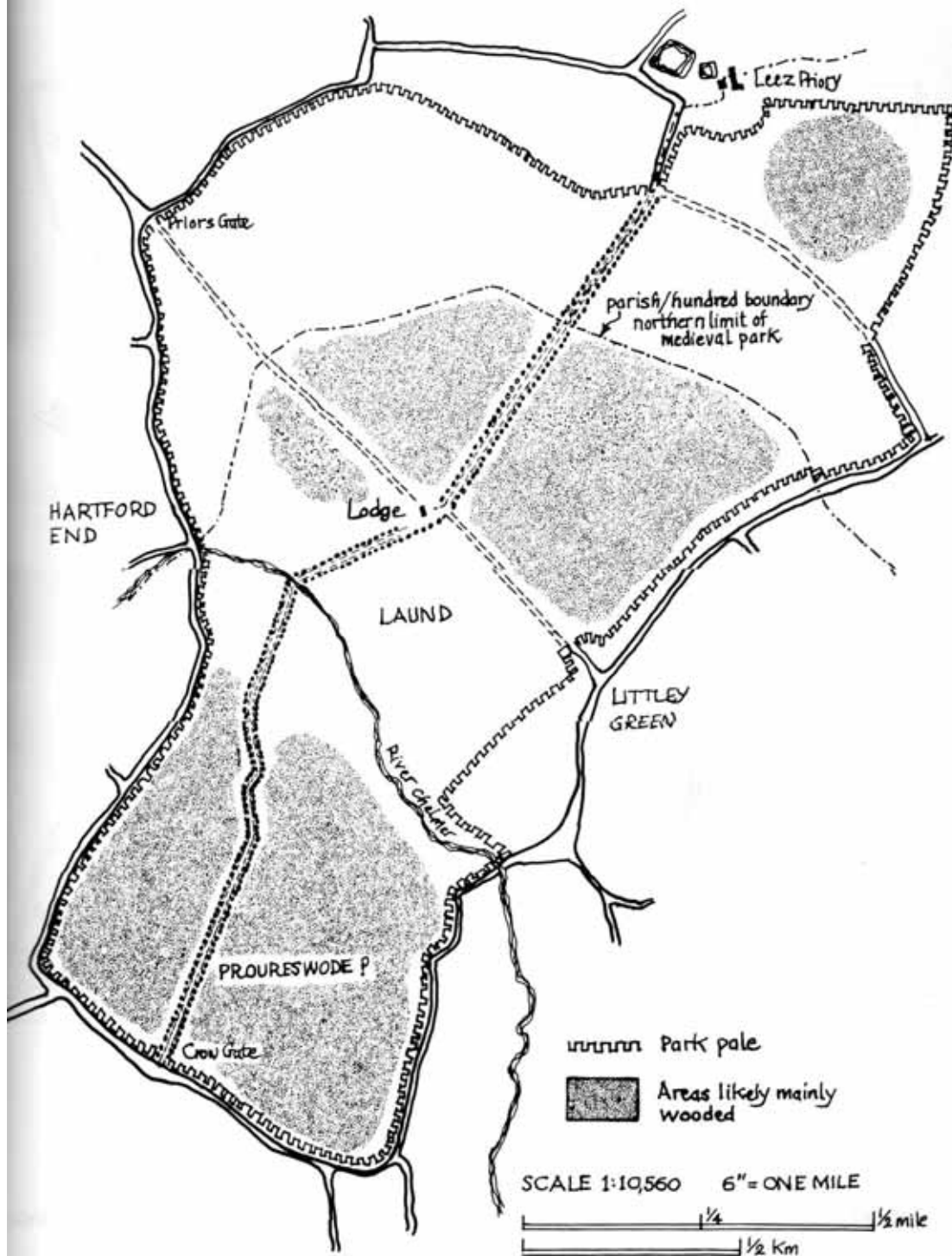
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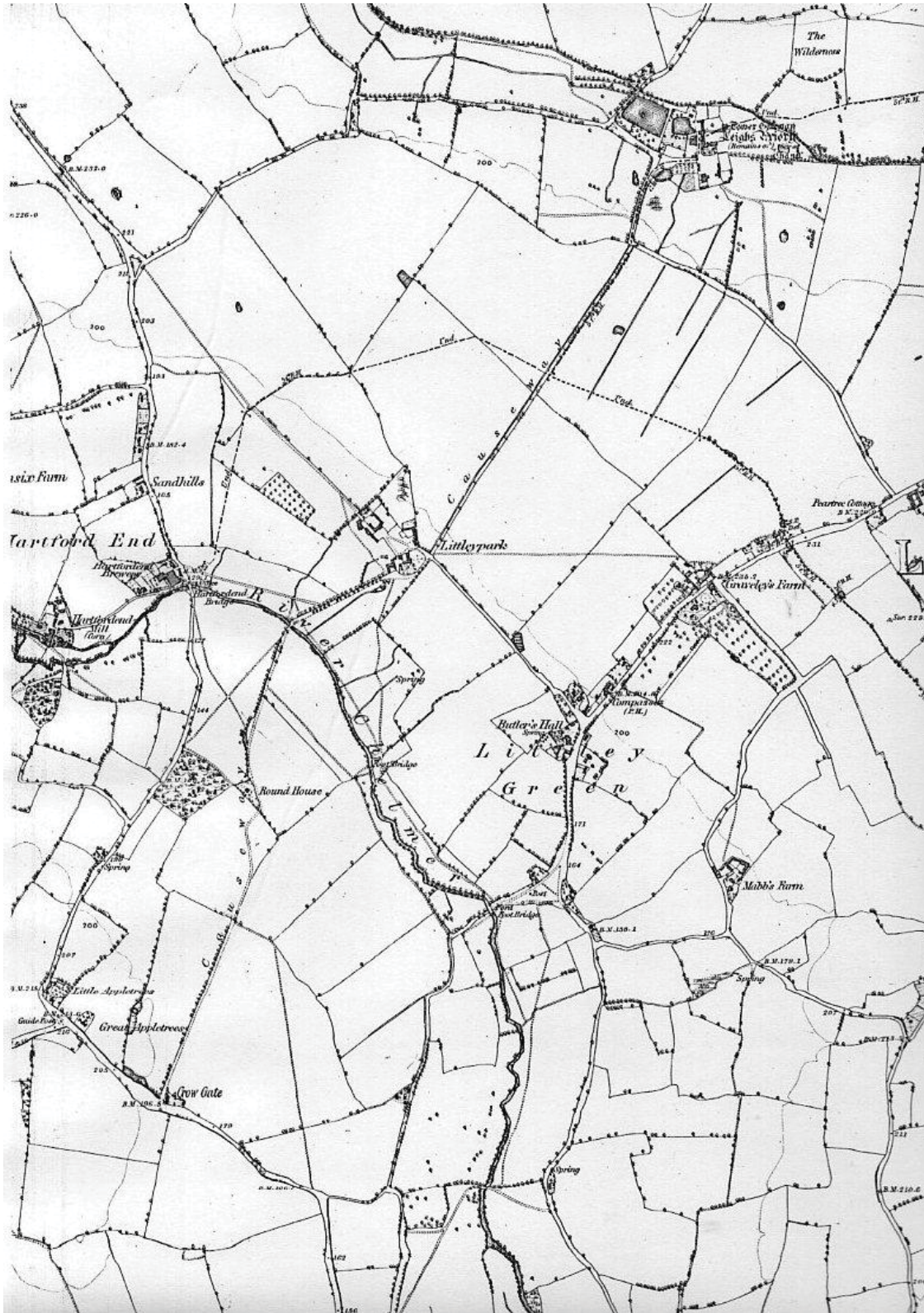
C1640 Littley Park
1777 Chapman & André's map of Essex plate XII
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Research by Michael Leach
Site visit by Michael Leach on 18 September 2011.

LITTLELEY PARK, GREAT WALTHAM

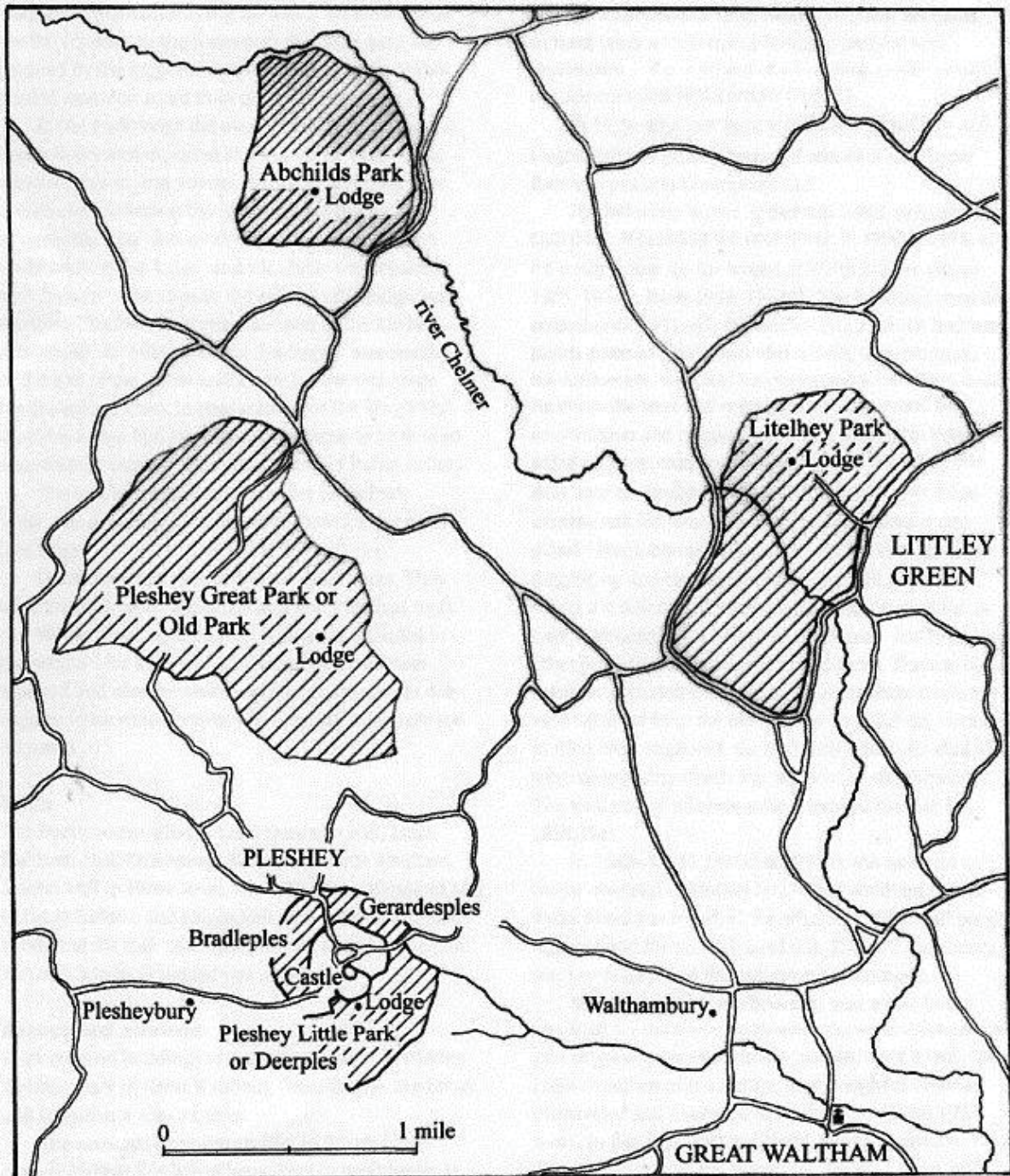


Littleley Park in about 1640, showing the northern medieval limit of the park, and its later extension to the boundary of Leez Priory
(reproduced by kind permission of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History)



Little Park on the 1st edition 6" ordnance survey map published in 1875. The line of the Causeway is clearly shown, as well as the medieval and Tudor northern boundaries. The significance of the 'Round House' to the south-west of the Little Park buildings is not known.

(Reproduced by kind permission of the Essex Record Office)



Map showing the Pleshey Castle parks in the fifteenth century
(reproduced by kind permission of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History)

TL 73380 10214

GRADE II

Remains of a C17 garden, remodelled in 1762 by Richard Woods, with C17 wilderness and approach drive.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

New Hall was one of the six manors of Boreham, originally part of the possessions of Waltham Abbey to whom it was granted by Earl Harold in 1062. In the mid to late C15 it was given by the Crown to Thomas Boteler, Earl of Ormond who, in 1491, was given permission to fortify the property and thus began the construction of a Tudor building (Muilman 1769). It descended through the female line to the Bullen (Boleyn) family who relinquished it to Henry VIII in c 1517. The king was so impressed by the beauty of the place he called it Beaulieu and 'greatly adorned and improved' the building (Morant 1768), creating a royal palace with great house, great hall, great chapel, and courtyards. In 1522 William Care was appointed Keeper of the Manor of New Hall, with power to engage labourers to work in the king's garden and orchard. The following year John Ryman was paid £60 'for making a garden at New Hall' (Brewer 1839), which in 1530 was referred to as the 'great garden of Beaulie' (Harvey 1975). In 1573 Queen Elizabeth granted the manor to Thomas, third Earl of Sussex and the letter patent conveying the gift gives some details of the park and garden. A drawing of 1669 (ERO) shows the Great Garden described in the conveyance, which became the present walled garden. New Hall entered a new phase in 1622 with the purchase of the estate by the Duke of Buckingham, who in 1624 employed John Tradescant the Elder to supervise and possibly design the grounds of both of his country residences: New Hall and Burley (Leith-Ross 1984), and to travel abroad in search of unusual trees and plants. In 1656 John Evelyn visited New Hall, noting in his diary the wilderness and the fine south approach, then planted with four rows of limes (de Beer 1959). After Buckingham's assassination in 1628 his estates passed to his young son but were sequestered following the Royalist defeat in 1648. New Hall was taken over by Cromwell in 1651 but following the Restoration in 1660 was acquired by the first Duke of Albermarle who lived there until his death in 1669. The second Duke died in Jamaica in 1688, New Hall being settled on his wife Elizabeth who subsequently married the first Duke of Montagu. When Sir John Percival and William Byrd visited New Hall in 1701 they found it 'now falling to the ground ... the gardens are quite spoilt' (Tinling 1977). The Montagus sold the reversion of New Hall in 1713 to Benjamin Hoare, but he grew tired of waiting and built himself Boreham House (qv) on adjacent estate land. In 1737 Hoare sold the Hall, gardens, park, and avenue to John Olmuis, first Lord Waltham who demolished part of the C16 building, leaving just the north range. He was succeeded in 1762 by his son Drigue Billiers Olmuis, who called in Richard Woods to remodel the gardens and create a pond. A painting by James Luttrell (1778) records the new gardens. Drigue died childless in 1787 and New Hall was inherited by his sister, on whose death in 1797 the property was sold. It was purchased in 1798 by the Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre, whose community and school have remained at New Hall ever since. During the C20 several new buildings have been added to the site.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING New Hall lies on the eastern

edge of the town of Chelmsford in an increasingly urban setting. Boundaries to the north and east are formed by farmland, while to the south and west a modern housing development is in the process of being built (2000). The c 14ha site occupies level ground, screened from its surroundings by small boundary plantations.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES The main approach to New Hall is off White Hart Lane, c 1.4km south-south-west of the Hall. The drive runs north-east, parallel to the railway line for c 450m before turning north to enter the south approach drive, which is lined with a double avenue of lime to the inside and oak to the outside. This drive, now c 800m long, was in place by the beginning of the C16 (Nichols 1828) and at that time extended for 1.4km south of the Hall, lined with four rows of lime. These were felled in 1798 and have since been replanted. The avenue was cut across in 1844 by the Great Eastern Railway and again, more drastically, in the 1970s, by the A12, after which time the isolated south lodges were demolished. The avenue ends c 200m south of the Hall, beside the North Lodge, the drive then leading up to the open forecourt below the south front.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING New Hall (listed grade I) is the surviving north side of a great quadrangular palace built by Henry VIII in c 1518, incorporating an earlier Tudor building and given the name Beaulieu. It is built of red brick and consists of a long range with seven half-octagonal two-storey bays, and a central Tudor-arched doorway. Smaller wings extend at each end, that to the east including a small courtyard with C18 ranges to south and east. The majority of the king's palace was demolished by John Olmuis in 1737, leaving the north wing which he remodelled internally as a gentleman's residence (Muilman 1769). Following the purchase by the Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre in 1798, progressive extensions and developments have been added. Bomb damage to the western half of the Tudor range was sustained in 1943 but restored in 1946, since when extensive additions and alterations have taken place, including substantial new west and east wings. Just beyond the east courtyard is a free-standing red-brick barn built in the C18 of Tudor brick, which was restored in 1986.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS The south front of New Hall looks onto a large expanse of lawn, bordered by the main drive and a brick wall to the east beside which stands a very mature cedar of Lebanon. The gardens which lay on the west front are now (2000) converted to a car park beyond which, c 150m west of the Hall, is an area of lawn with mature cedars known as the Cedar Plot which dates from the time of the first Lord Waltham. The western boundary of the Cedar Plot is formed by the east wall of the walled garden. Immediately to the south of the walled garden is the Wilderness, an area of woodland cut through with paths, which includes the private cemetery of the Order. The Wilderness is first mentioned by Evelyn in his diary of 1656 and since garden activity was unlikely to have taken place during the Protectorate, it was probably extant at the beginning of the C17. On the north side of the school buildings, a path through lawns runs parallel to the northern boundary, beside a small spring pond located c 150m north-west of the Hall, at the western end of a ditch. The ditch occupies the site of Richard Woods' pond, which was partially filled in by the Canonesses in 1799 and then drained in the 1890s following an epidemic of diphtheria. The path leads behind the buildings to an area of lawn edged by mixed late C20 plantings beyond the eastern wings of the Hall. The lawn is bordered to the east by a curved red-brick wall of unknown date. Beyond this garden and the restored barn, c 150m to the east of the Hall, is a small pool, originally a fishpond, which is shown on the 1777 county map (Chapman and Andre). Lawns on the west bank of the pool link back to the forecourt on the south front.

Open areas of grass flank the entrance forecourt to east and west, c 150m south-west and south-east of the Hall. These are used by the school as sports fields and are shown as unplanted areas of grass on the OS 1st edition 25" map of 1874.

KITCHEN GARDEN The walled kitchen garden lies c 250m to the west of the Hall. It retains some wall shrubs and a perimeter path although the remainder is covered by hard tennis courts. Immediately beyond the north wall is a mid C20 sports hall and swimming pool. The kitchen garden occupies the site of the Tudor Great Garden although its brickwork appears to be C18.

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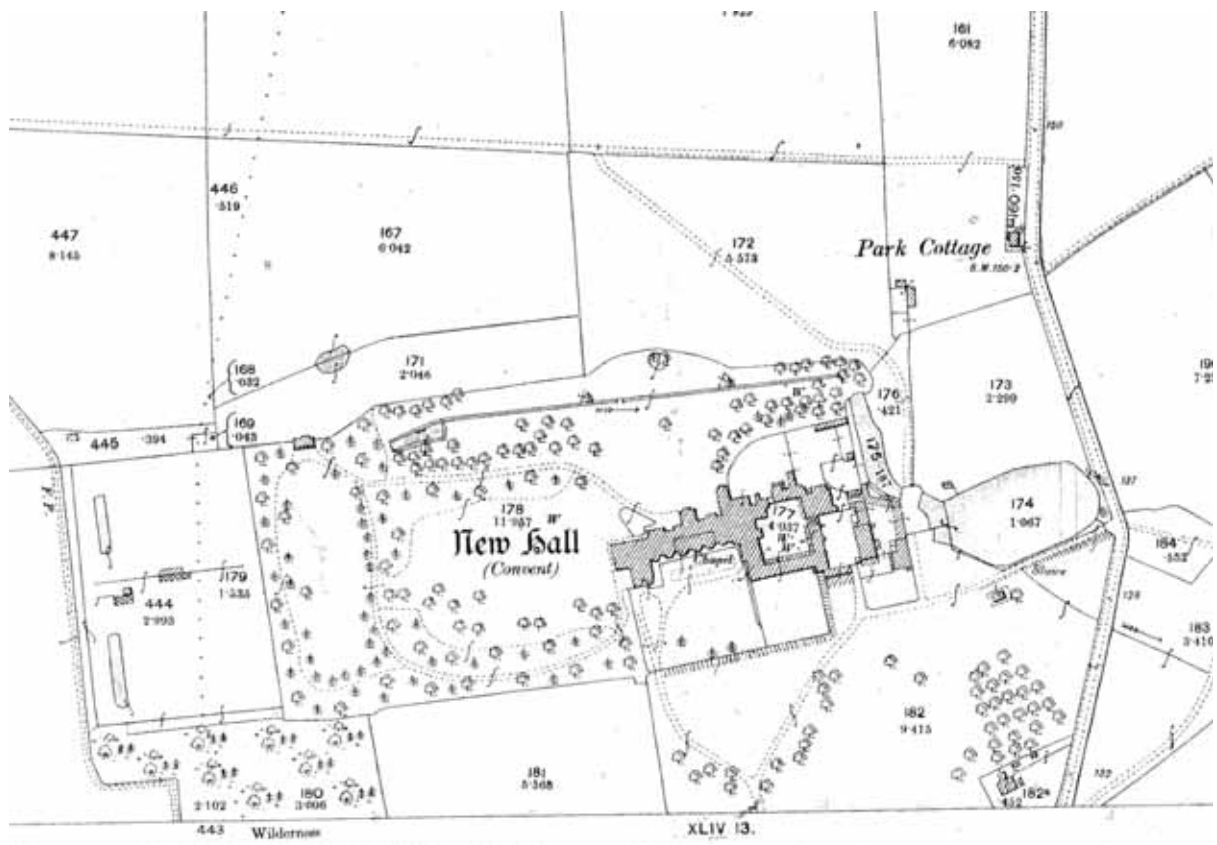
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Ground plan and engraving of New Hall (1691) showing banqueting house (copy in Essex Record Office)

Description written November 2000. Amended: April 2001 Register Inspector: EMP Edited: September 2001



New Hall
Engraved by W.Watkins – Published 1831 by George Virtue
(private collection)



25 inch 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of New Hall 1897 – sheet 44.9
(reproduced by kind permission of the Essex Record Office)

TL703 060

A good example of a small mid nineteenth century burial ground with grass paths, evergreen trees and shrubs and ornate memorials of leading figures from Chelmsford.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The Non-Conformist cemetery in New London Road was established under a Trust Deed enrolled in Her Majesties High Court of Chancery. The first meeting of the Trustees was held in the British School Room, Chelmsford on Friday 17th April 1846. John Copland took the Chair and the Trustees unanimously agreed to accept the offer from Messrs Wells and Perry to sell, for the purposes of a cemetery, their field in the North London Road containing two acres for £476. The offer was considered very liberal and the land was highly eligible for the burial of Dissenters in the Town and Neighbourhood.

The terms agreed were that a committee of thirteen of the largest contributors to the funds be requested to prepare such regulations, rules and estimates as may appear necessary for the governance of the Association. These regulations included the minimum depth of the grave, which was to be five feet, and that the depth of the coffin to be within three feet of the surface. Also, no funerals were to take place at night or on a Sunday without written consent of three Trustees. All graves stones, tombs, monuments, railings or inclosures were to be kept in order by the relatives or friends of the deceased. At the end of the regulations it stated that 'The poor, dying within three miles of the Shire Hall, may have free burials in plain graves, by payment of the Sexton's charge, on production of a printed order from the Clerk and a certificate signed by the Minister'. At the following meeting on the 1st May, the subscribers' list showed that £630 had so far been promised. At the 22nd May 1846 meeting it was agreed that the first Trustees consist of the fifteen largest subscribers together with two others.

James Fenton (1805-1875), architect, surveyor and engineer, was responsible for laying out New London Road and its cemetery. The non-conformist cemetery was laid out in 1846 along with a chapel and lodge, since demolished. In July 1846 Mr Fenton was asked to prepare plans for the erection of a sexton's and receiving house, entrance walls and gate. Mr Fenton's plans were accepted at an estimated cost of £200. Mr Fenton designed the gates and a Mr Hart was employed to make them. Mr Copland had offered for sale some benches and these were purchased from him. Mr Fenton was also asked to plan a building for storing tools, plants, etc. In December 1846 the Trustees agreed to have the laurels removed in front of the cemetery. James Fenton was one of the Trustees and his fourteen year old son, James Lionel, was the first burial on 9th July 1846. James Fenton, senior, died in 1875 and, although living in Brixton, is buried in the cemetery he designed.

By 1871 the Trustees agreed to take down the current receiving house and cottage and to re-erect the cottage at the north east end of the ground, with an entrance near it and an exit beyond the centre of the boundary wall against the road. The new chapel was to be rebuilt on the front of the centre plot, and a wall or iron fence was to be built next to the road. Mr Charles Pertwee was to carry out these alterations at a cost not exceeding £500. The Clerk was requested to solicit subscriptions to meet the cost.

In 1883 it was agreed to continue the wall on the south border in a straight line with the current one, removing trees and shrubs and altering pathways. In 1895 the final part of the wall to complete the enclosure of the cemetery had been erected.

The cemetery contains many very large and ornate memorials to leading figures of Chelmsford. The cemetery was open to any dissenter and there is evidence of Congregationalists, Methodists, Wesleyans, Roman Catholics and Salvation Army. Additionally many burials were from people who resided outside of the Chelmsford area with a significant number from Springfield and Writtle.

London Road Cemetery was taken over by Chelmsford Borough Council under the Open Spaces Act 1906 in 1950. They will maintain it for seventy years after which they are free to lay out the land as recreation ground.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM & SETTING

The Non-Conformist Cemetery is situated off the B1007, the New London Road, which runs parallel with the old road to London, Moulsham Street. The many houses in North London Road are in either private or commercial hands. The cemetery sits between turnings Southborough Road and Queen Street with the cemetery entrance immediately off the New London Road

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The cemetery is accessed through a pair of wooden gates flanked by yellow stock brick walls. Immediately adjacent the Nonconformist Cemetery is New London Road's oldest business, Lucking & Sons, funeral directors.

CEMETERY

The lodge and chapel, as shown on the 25" 1874 ordnance survey map, have been demolished and there are now no buildings in the cemetery. A wide grass path leads round all four sides of the cemetery, as on the 1874 ordnance survey map, with gravestones on both sides. The area in the centre of the cemetery has no defined paths although there are many graves in this area. The cemetery has been well planted with many yew trees, hollies, laurels and some specimen trees: most of which have grown to a good height. Many of the graves have imposing monuments, some gravestones are in a state of disrepair, and some are covered with ivy or overgrown bushes.

Monuments in the cemetery include memorials to Joseph Brittain Pash (died 1926), founder of Essex Industrial School; Ralph Luckin Smith (died 1902) with portrait photograph set into headstone; William Tanner (died 1850) who served for 56 years in office of Clerk of the Peace; Joseph Freeman (died 1875) 'once a slave in New Orleans...who escaped to England' He was employed at the London Road Iron Works.

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1994 Monumental inscriptions at Nonconformist Cemetery, Chelmsford ERO T/Z 151/41

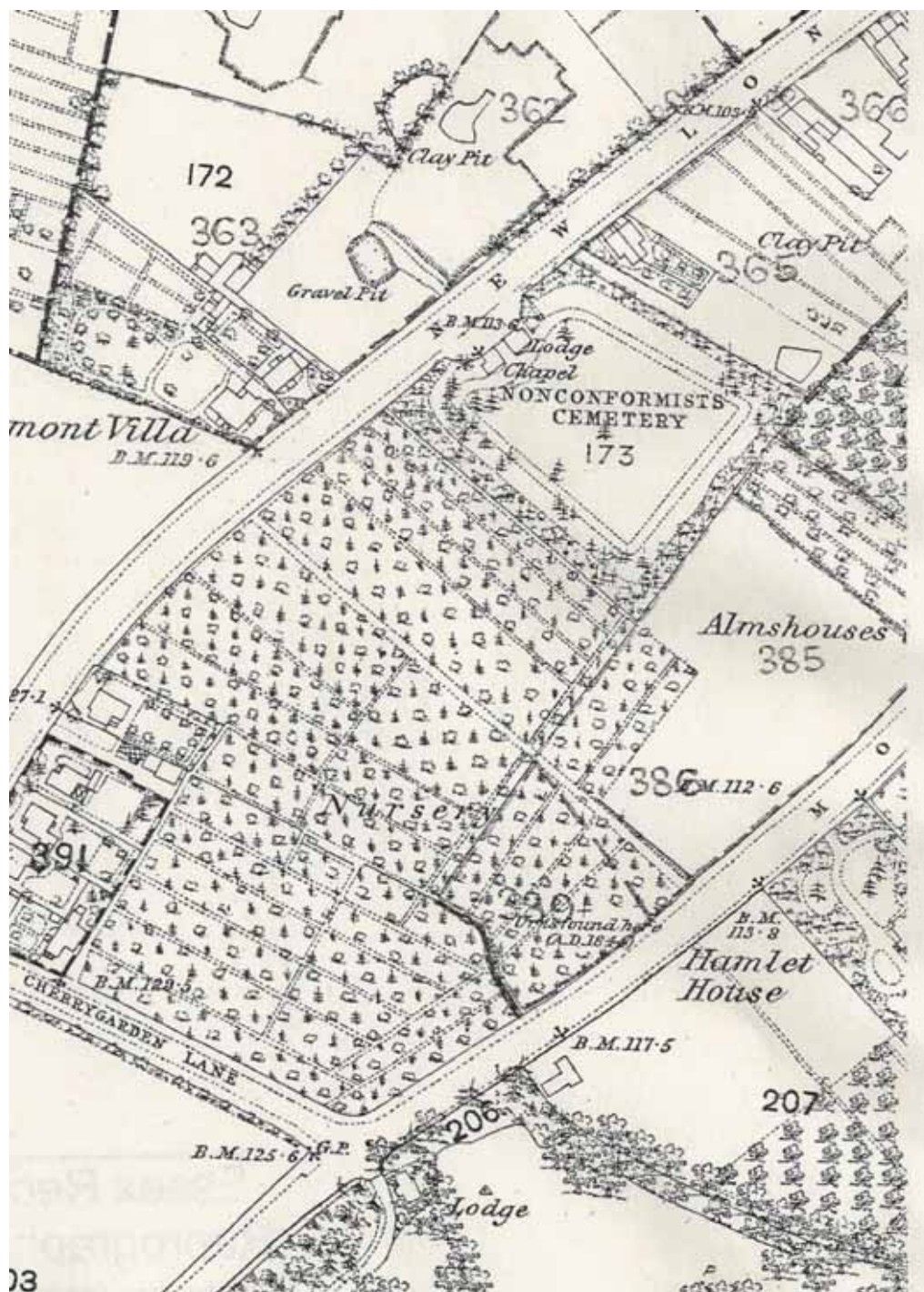
2006 Chelmsford Borough Council *Heritage information* James Fenton July

Websites

www.findagrave.com 23 March 2011

Researcher: Jill Plater

Site Visit: 4 March 2012 Jill Plater



25" first edition ordnance survey map of
the Non-Conformist Cemetery as surveyed in 1874 – sheet 52.8
(reproduced by kind permission of the Essex Record Office)

TL 669 017

Regency Grade II brick-built, stuccoed house, likened by Pesvner to a ‘Cheltenham Villa’, standing in a small park with restored lake and restored temple. Plans for a model farm, designed by Frederic Chancellor in 1885, were marked as for Peacocks but on land now probably belonging to Eweland Hall.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Although described variously as being from the Hanoverian, Georgian or Regency periods, Peacocks may be an example of a more modern house built upon older foundations. In *Margaretting, The village with a beautiful name*, Miss G.M. Baker states that “Lord and Lady Chelmer think that it has some features which point to it having been erected originally in the time of Elizabeth I. Its name of ‘Peacocks’, as a fact, was given to it very much earlier than that as testified by the following from Lord Petre’s archives deposited in the Essex Record Office.” The relevant manorial document (ERO D/DP M709) refers to manorial deeds, relating to Margaretting, of the Petre Family, listing tenants and properties with details of rents and services. This indicates that in 1421 there was a man called Lawrence Swetynges who rented a dwelling house with stables, cowsheds etc. together with 25 acres called Pecokkes in Margaretting.

Chapman and André’s map of 1777 shows Humphrey Sidney Esq. at ‘Peacock’. The site is depicted as being almost rectangular with an avenue, presumably lining the drive, running north, north-west from the house to the main road. To the south-east of the house, a square section of possible ornamental garden is shown with paths forming an upright cross and long thin rectangular beds within each quarter.

Baker suggests that a “branch of the family of the Elizabethan hero Sir Philip Sydney came from West Hanningfield during the reign of Charles II to live at Peacocks for a son of the family, Henry Sidney was baptised in 1689 in the local church and as late as 1833 the late baptism of a Sydney (Robert) at St Margaret’s took place so this family appears to have resided at Peacocks for roughly 150 years.” According to David Williams in his *Essex Journal* article ‘The Sidneys – zenith and decline’, Humphrey Sidney (1669 – 1731) and then his eldest son, also Humphrey (1705 - 1787), were squires of Margaretting from 1700 until the latter’s death in 1787. In his will, Humphrey Sidney II left substantial amounts of cash and stock together with properties in various parts of Essex but he chose to be buried very simply in Margaretting churchyard with no tombstone nor inscription but to have his grave turfed ‘and brambles put over the same as soon as I am buried’. Charles William Sidney (1756 – c1823) was his son and heir and Williams suggests that he may have been responsible for the rebuilding of Peacocks in the latest style and speculates on a possible connection between the improvements and the estates, both Peacocks and at West Hanningfield, becoming heavily mortgaged. Correspondence with a local solicitor at Copland & Sons, suggests that C.W. Sidney was considering selling Peacocks in 1809, presumably to raise funds. In 1822 Peacocks was given to his son, Charles Algernon Philip Sidney (1783 – 1864) and at that time the estate was mortgaged for at least £3000. Peacocks was sold to John Disney in 1833 for £6300.

Research has yet to discover whether or not the gardens were improved when the house was rebuilt but, prior to that, it would seem that some slight changes may have been made to the

grounds during the time of Humphrey Sidney II. A map of Lord Petre's estate (1779) includes Peacocks, although not mentioned by name, and shows the straight drive, although the avenue (clearly shown on C&A 1777) isn't specifically indicated, plus what appears to be an extended garden incorporating the original square and an additional rectangular area to the south-west of the house, the whole forming a larger square with the house completing the fourth quarter and each quarter of garden being dissected by a path, one being an extension of the drive. It is difficult to categorically specify changes to a site when comparing maps drawn by different cartographers with no scale given and the above suggested alterations to the site are based on the location of the pond, to the north-west of the house, which is shown clearly on both maps.

The Tithe Award of 1838 lists Peacocks as being owned by John Disney and occupied by George Straight who is given as the owner of the adjacent Parsonage House. Although the lodge is listed as being early C19 it does not appear on the 1838 Tithe Map which shows a strip of woodland where the lodge would be situated. However, it is shown on the OS first edition map of c1873 by which time the drive had been moved making the entrance near the north-eastern corner – its present location. This would suggest that the grounds were improved to include the park, present driveway and lodge between 1838 and the early 1870s. Whites Directory lists George Straight at Peacocks in 1843 and 1863. It is not known when he died but his wife, Charlotte, continued to live there until her death in 1871 (Baker). By 1874 Francis Lewis Shaw Merewether is in residence; followed in 1887 by Mr and Mrs Longbourne; in 1894 by Edward Strangways Neave Esq. and in 1898 by Walter P. Tyser Esq. (Principal Seats in Essex). It is thought that Colonel and Mrs Elton moved to Peacocks after Walter Tyser who was still there in 1901 according to the Census. Baker lists some Twentieth Century residents of Peacocks: "When WWI took place Mr & Mrs E. W. Rudd lived there and they were followed by Mr & Mrs Dalzell and Mr & Mrs Cooper in that order." An article in the *Essex Chronicle* confirms that Mr & Mrs T.W. Cooper were living at Peacocks in February 1941. It has been suggested to the present owner that parts of the garden were professionally landscaped during 1930s and this may have been when the Dell and Rill were created. However no specific mention was made of either garden feature in the Sales Particulars when Peacocks was to be auctioned on 6th July 1933 so perhaps it was the new owners who initiated the garden improvements.

Baker continues, "Lord & Lady Chelmer, the present occupants (1984) of Peacocks have been there several years". Eric Cyril Boyd Edwards (born 1914) was knighted in 1954 and created Baron Chelmer in 1963. He was a solicitor and became a very successful fundraiser for the Conservative Party. He married Enid Harvey, an accomplished ballet dancer, in 1939. Lord Chelmer is thought to have bought Peacocks c1955. In 1952 he had bought a quantity of stonework from the Italian Garden at Copped Hall, near Epping, at an auction for his family home at Borewood, Hockley, and he brought some of that stonework to Peacocks. Four stone columns were used when Chelmer built the temple and a short stretch of balustrade was added to the wall adjacent to the entrance of the turning area at the front of the house. However, the other stonework has since been returned to The Copped Hall Trust by the present owner whose information sheet suggests that Lord and Lady Chelmer lived at Peacocks for over forty years. It is assumed that Lord Chelmer still owned Peacocks when he died in 1997 as the property was for sale in 1998 and was subsequently bought by the present owner.

The Essex Record Office holds plans for a new homestead for Colonel Disney dated 1885. These comprise twelve ground, block, elevation and section plans by Frederic Chancellor, a

local architect. This documentary evidence has the SMR Number 15438 and the Monument Name of Peacocks Homestead. However one plan indicates that this 'new homestead' and model farm were on the opposite side of the road from Peacocks on Eweland Hall land. The description in the sales catalogue for Eweland Hall Estate, dated 19 November 1927, includes details of a small farmery consisting of a substantially built timber & tiled cowshed for 4 cows, calves' place and meal house, open cattle shed, two pig courts and enclosed yard. The location suggests that the 'small farmery' was probably Chancellor's model farm and its only connection with Peacocks may have been that the two sites were owned at the time by Colonel Disney.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM & SETTING

Peacocks is located on the south-west edge of Margaretting which is approximately four and a half miles south-west of Chelmsford and two miles north-east of Ingatestone. Despite its close proximity to Chelmsford, the village of Margaretting sits in a rural setting. The land is fairly flat but slopes slightly downwards south towards the River Wid (approximately ½ mile at the closest point) which follows a diagonal course from the south of the village towards the north-east.

The sales catalogue of 1998 for Peacocks states that the principal house, lodge, immediate outbuildings, gardens and meadows comprise approximately six acres with a further sixty-three acres of park/agricultural land. The present owner confirms that the total estate comprises seventy acres. The 1998 sales catalogue map shows that the Peacocks site is irregular in shape: From the entrance to the drive due north of the house, the boundary follows a south-westerly direction adjacent to the south side of the main road to Ingatestone (B1002) until it reaches a row of houses where there are double metal field gates giving access from the road. At this point the boundary turns south; south-west and then south-east following a field boundary and then the line of the brook (which later flows into the River Wid) until just north of the railway line at which point the boundary goes north-east until Parsonage Lane. It continues north-west and then north-east around the site of Parsonage Farm before continuing in a north-easterly direction towards Margaretting. It turns north-west adjacent to the back gardens of the houses along the Maldon Road, back to the main road (B1002) and south-west past the lodge, back to the main entrance. From limited observation, it appears that most of the boundary is marked by hedging and some wooden fencing in places such as alongside the B1002. Much of the land surrounding the site seems to be agricultural.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The main entrance to Peacocks is situated on the south side of the B1002 a short distance from the crossroads with the Maldon Road. Set back from the road, with a white painted brick lodge to the east side, the entrance drive is flanked by stone gate posts, topped by stone urns, supporting modern wrought iron gates which have scroll work depicting the tail of peacock when closed. The drive, which is gravelled over a hard surface, curves gently south, south-west to the entrance courtyard in front of the house at which point there is another pair of gate posts, this time of whitish brick topped by weathered terracotta urns. The entrance courtyard provides a turning area for vehicles and is surrounded by low brick walls on the north-east and west sides with much of the north-west section (immediately opposite the front of the house) comprising low brick pillars with low ornamental iron railings between, offering a view over the parkland and towards the lake and temple. There is a stone urn upon

a low plinth in the centre of the courtyard. From the entrance courtyard there is access by the north corner of the house to the stable yard with a range of outbuildings.

A secondary entrance from Parsonage Lane, north of Parsonage farm, to the south-east corner of the stable yard is shown on various maps. The old C18 drive is no longer in evidence although the oak gate was remade and marks the location of the former entrance.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

Pevsner likened the house to a “Cheltenham villa”. The listing information describes Peacocks house as “An attractive Regency house with stuccoed walls. It is set back from the main road and stands in a small park. The north front has a parapet, modillion cornice and a central modillion pediment. There are recessed panels between the cornice and the first storey windows. Two storeys. The main block has 5 window range, double-hung sashes with glazing bars, in moulded architraves. The centre part breaks forward slightly, with three window range and the pediment above. The ground storey has a tetra style portico with fluted columns and cornice. The main block is flanked by small wings of one window range, with a blocked window on the first storey and a semi-circular headed recess on the ground storey. Roof slate with four symmetrical chimney stacks to the central block.”

The Lodge to Peacocks, which is located on the east side of the main entrance, is described in the listing information as “A small early C19 painted brick lodge with corner pilasters. The centre part breaks forward with a tetra style pilastered front, a pedimented gable and a central doorway. The windows are double-hung sashes with glazing bars, in plain reveals. Roof slate, hipped at the north and south ends and with a central chimney stack with two octagonal shafts.”

To the east of the main house is the stable yard which includes garages, a stable block with clock tower, old granary/workshop and stores. There was stabling for up to eight horses.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The main access to all areas of the garden is from the entrance courtyard via a gateway near the north-west corner of the house by a large beech. On entering the gardens, the path to the left leads around the side of the house to the former Kitchen Garden. The path to the right leads past a gap in the hedge, offering good views of the lake with its temple in the park, through a shrubbery and loops around to the western part of the lawned area near the Dell. This path appears to follow that of the one shown on the OS first edition 25” map.

KITCHEN GARDEN

The 1998 sales catalogue describes the area to the south and south-east of the house as the Kitchen Garden. The ordnance survey first edition 25” map shows this area with glass houses and pathways. The only path there now follows the line of the red brick wall, backing on to the stable yard, running east from the house to a doorway at the end of the long border, which comprises mixed ornamental planting. Most of the former Kitchen Garden is laid to lawn which extends to the north and west where large specimens of cedar, beech and weeping ash are growing. The main reminders of a former production area are two greenhouses. One is roughly in the middle of the lawn and is a Victorian ‘wire tension’ greenhouse by Hoare & Sons of Bristol. The other, a former Melon House which still has its boiler, is to the north, beside the wall with a back-to-back potting shed which has recently been restored. In the east corner is an oak-framed summer house, with a raised veranda supported by staddle stones, which was originally in the stable yard and used as a fruit store before being dismantled, repaired and rebuilt in its present position.

A wooden gate due south-east of the central greenhouse leads to an area referred to as the old orchard which is now left wild although a few old fruit trees survive and a pond, shown on the OS first edition 25" map, remains. A narrow strip of land between the former Kitchen garden and the old orchard has been designated the Nut Walk. A new orchard has been established on the south side of the former Kitchen Garden accessed via a wooden bridge across the Rill. Mown paths cross at right-angles within the new orchard and attractive, white-painted benches act as focal points at the ends of two of the paths. In the rectangular area to the south of the old orchard and east of the new orchard a woodland walk is being developed.

PLEASURE GROUNDS

To the north, north-west of the new orchard a partially walled area is being developed on the site of a former outdoor swimming pool. Backing on to this, on the north, north-west side, is a new walled garden that has been created since 2002 on the site of a former rose garden. A few of the original roses have survived and are incorporated into the new garden together with other roses, clematis and a range of shrubs and perennials. This garden is surrounded on two sides by tall red brick walls; on one side (north, north-west) by a lower brick wall, with two separate wrought iron gates leading into the Dell, and on the north-north-east side by a tall beech hedge in which a tall arched wrought iron gate provides the main entrance to this garden. From this entrance a wooden pergola over a brick path leads to a flat circular bricked area with a central plinth supporting a stainless steel armillary. Three gravel paths lead from the centre forming a + with the brick-lined path. Another wooden pergola follows the path leading to one of the Dell gates; a wooden covered seat acts as a focal point at the end of the opposite path and a rectangular pool forms the focal point at the end of the main axis. A small hexagonal summerhouse is placed in the north corner and planted terracotta pots line some of the paths. There are other planters together with various statues and pieces of sculpture within the garden.

To the north, north-west of the new walled garden is a sunken area with a small pond called The Dell which possibly dates back to the 1930s. It has been cleared of brambles and self-sown trees but awaits restoration. Access to this area is either via one of the two gates in the walled garden or from two separate paths leading from the lawned area to the south-west of the house by the large cedar. This area is shown on the ordnance survey first edition 25" map as being covered by water.

Another area thought to date from the 1930s is the Rill which is a narrow, straight channel edged with stone slabs in a sunken area running alongside the former Kitchen Garden on the south, south-east side. Two wooden bridges cross the Rill and steps are located down to it by the bridge on the west side. The Rill may have been created where a former channel of water existed, as shown on the ordnance survey first edition 25" map, which joined the piece of water that is now the Dell.

PARK

The parkland surrounds the house and ornamental grounds on all but the section on the south-eastern side adjacent to Parsonage Farm. There are various specimen trees in the park but no evidence has been found of the former avenue shown on the Chapman & André map. The lake, to the north-west of the house, was shown on the ordnance survey first edition 25" map, and subsequent ones, as an elongated oval shape and it has been restored but is now more irregularly rounded in shape and has a dozen varieties of water lilies. On its north-east edge is a roman-style temple which has also been restored and has red brick steps leading from it

down to the water. Either side of the steps is a red brick wall with a circular feature spouting water. On the opposite side of the lake, nearest the gardens, is a wooden landing platform with a boat tied to it and a dog sculpture sitting on it looking towards the temple.

The present owner has done much to restore the house and gardens but his ethos is to allow the garden to evolve rather than maintain it as just a garden museum.

SOURCES

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Morant, Philip (1768) reprinted 1978 *History and Antiquities of the County of Essex* Vol II, EP Pub. Ltd, pp 52-55

Pigot’s Essex Trade Directory 1832-3

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Williams, David 2011 *Essex Journal* Vol 46, 1, pp21-27

Wilson, John Marius c1866 *The Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales*

Maps and Images

1777 Chapman, J. & Andre, P. *A map of the county of Essex from an actual survey..* Sheet 17

1779 Map of Margaretting showing certain estates belonging to Rt. Hon. Robert Edward Lord Petre and several other persons. Surveyor unknown.

1838 Tithe Award map ERO D/CT 233B

c1872 OS 25” first edition sheet 60.2

1873 OS 6” first edition sheet 60

c1884 Maps of Margaretting showing tithe apportionments etc. Peacocks shown (with water in blue/buildings in red) and on a larger scale than D/CT 233B but otherwise details are the same. Gives owner as John Disney and occupier as George Straight. Park given as c 24acres

1896 OS 25” second edition sheet 60.2

1897 OS 6” second edition sheet 60

1923 OS New Series sheet 63SW

1998 Map with sales catalogue ERO C1536

Written Archive Documents

1421 Manorial deeds, relating to Margaretting, of Petre Family, listing tenants and properties with details of rents and services. ERO D/DP M709

1707 Deeds mention Humphrey Sidney of Margaretting ERO D/DU 18/32/3

c1711 Lists Humphrey Sidney of Margaretting as a juror on 7th March 1711
ERO T/A 418/243/37

1756 – 1833 Deeds of Disney Family of The Hyde, Ingatestone with some mention of a ‘croft called Thedams (the properties being also known as messuage and mansion house called Peacocks and land thereto belonging) and also ‘Tenement called Peacocks’ ERO D/DDs T30

- 1786 Will of Humphrey Sidney II ERO D/DDs T30
- 1809 Letter book of Chelmsford solicitors Copland & Son including correspondence with Charles William Sidney ERO D/DDw B1/4
- 1823 Margaretting Parish records listing death of Humphrey Sidney in 1788 and mentioning his son Charles William Sidney (died c1823) and his son Charles Algernon Phillip Sidney ERO D/DDs T34/7
- 1833 Deeds of Disney Family of The Hyde, Ingatestone. Lease of mansion house called Peacocks in Margaretting ERO D/P 235/25/1
- 1838 Tithe Award for Margaretting ERO D/CT 233A D/DDW/B51
- 1885 Plans for a new homestead for Colonel Disney ERO D/F 8/634
Ground, block, elevation, section plans (12) by Frederic Chancellor:
[SEAX: SMR Number 15438 Peacocks Homestead model farm]
- Several sheets showing plans with side elevations of model farm with accommodation for pigs, cows, horses plus arable (hay, straw, granary, roots) cart shed
 - One sheet (no date) shows present plan of part of first floor to Peacocks (house?) for Norton Disney
 - One sheet (dated 5th Aug 1895) shows proposed alterations to part of first floor to Peacocks (house?) for Norton Disney
 - One sheet for John V. Longbourne for Peacocks dated Aug 1885 coloured plans and side elevations of stable block? Plus letter attached from J V Longbourne
 - One sheet for John V. Longbourne for Peacocks dated Sept 1885 (not coloured) incorporating suggestions made in letter above?
 - One sheet for Colonel Disney (dated Jan 1886) showing coloured plans for new homestead and cottage. Shows road to Chelmsford and compass point suggests it's on Eweland Hall side (west of road)
 - Sheet No 7 for Norton Disney Esq shows ground plan "as at present", with lots of pencilled notes etc. of Peacocks house – no date
 - Sheet No 3 for Norton Disney Esq (no date) shows present plan of basement of Peacocks
 - Many sheets very fragile and not looked at!
- 1900 - c1914 Working papers of the staff of the Victorian County History of Essex comprising notes on individual parishes ERO A12376 Box 17 includes research notes for Margaretting
- 1927 (19 November) Sales Catalogue for Eweland Hall Estate
- 1933 Sales Catalogue for Peacocks – in private ownership
- 1994 Thesis in two volumes on Frederic Chancellor by Anne Holden (Student thesis for the Postgraduate Diploma in Building Conservation The Architectural Association ERO T/Z 561/26/4)
- 1998 Sales Catalogue for Peacocks ERO C1536

Websites

Principal Seats in Essex listing owners/occupiers of mansions sourced from variety of trade directories and other publications <http://deadpubs.co.uk/EssexPubs/Directories/Seats.shtml>

Researcher: Sally-Ann Turner

Site Visits: 10th June 2010, 7th April 2011 and 8th July 2011

With thanks to the present owner for all his help



Peacocks 2011
(private photograph)



Lake and Temple 2011
(private photograph)

An early C19 house surrounded by a park laid out in 1815 following advice from Humphry Repton.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The estate of which Old Riffhams was a capital messuage was owned by the Clerke family up until 1801. In the late C18 Martha, daughter and heiress of Robert Clerke, married Charles Phillips, who in default of heirs, left the estate to his great-nephew John Robert Spencer. On inheriting in 1809, John took the additional name of Phillips. Instead of altering the old manor house, he chose to build a new mansion on a spectacular site c 600m to the south-west of the old one. He began the house, which he called Riffhams, in 1815, the same year in which Humphry Repton (1752-1818) was called in to give advice on the grounds. Although a Red Book was not prepared, Repton advised on the location of the new house and prepared 'a panoramic sketch of the views from the site proposed for Riffham's Lodge' (Repton watercolour (copy), UEA). In 1836 Wright included an engraving in his History of Essex which shows the early C19 flower gardens and shrubberies. John Spencer died in 1874, aged eighty-seven years. The estate was inherited by his son Major John Charles Spencer-Phillips but was let to a Mrs E Kirk and then to Mr and Mrs Charles Parker in c 1904. During their tenancy the Danbury Flower Show was held in the grounds. In 1928 the house was occupied by Sir Adam and Lady Richie and in 1933 Percy Tyrell Spencer Phillips put it on the market. It was purchased by Sir Follett Holt, a railway engineer. Sir Follett's son sold Riffhams in c 1968 to the Benson family. In 1976 the estate was again put up for sale and the house and park were purchased by the Hindmarch family. The estate remains (2000) in single private ownership.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING Riffhams lies on the north-west edge of the town of Danbury, on the north side of the A414 Chelmsford to Maldon road. The c 20ha triangular site is set in a rural part of Essex, bounded to the north by Blake's Wood, to the east and south-east by Riffhams Lane, and to the west by farmland. Graces Lane cuts through the northern end of the site, dividing the main house and park in the south from Cedar Park in the north. The gently rolling landscape falls south and south-east from the house towards a stream, dammed to create two lakes, which runs from east to west through the centre of the park. The ground then rises again to the southern boundary.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES Riffhams is entered off Graces Lane, through a pair of stone gate piers beside the road. The short, c 50m drive curves south-west to arrive at the gravelled forecourt on the east front, and then continues round to the north of the house into a service courtyard. A second entrance off Graces Lane, c 80m west of the first, leads directly into this courtyard. There is also a track which enters the southern tip of the park and runs through Hall Wood along the western boundary. This now (2000) continues north to link with Riffhams Farm (located to the west of the boundary of the site here registered) and it is not clear from map evidence whether this was ever used as an approach drive for the main house.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING Riffhams (listed grade II) is a two-storey country house of white brick, standing on a high point to the north of its park. The entrance front to the east is of seven bays, the southern three projecting slightly with a central Doric portico. The south front, facing the park, has five bays, with a central garden door leading onto a small balustraded terrace. The house was built in 1815-17 for J R Spencer Phillips and was extended during the mid C19 by the Holt family. A small carriage house stands beside the north front.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS The gravelled forecourt below the east front looks onto a lawn divided from the park by a metal fence. Deep mixed shrub borders screen the service courtyard to the north. The small enclosed and balustraded paved terrace below the south front looks onto a sloping lawn on which stands a fine mature cedar of Lebanon and two small urns on plinths. The lawn is enclosed by a metal park fence with extensive views beyond into the park.

The main area of flower gardens lie to the west and south-west of the house and are divided from the service courtyard to the north by a tall wall of white brick surmounted by urns, at the southern end of which a covered loggia has been created (late C20) looking out onto the sloping west lawn. Beyond the loggia the wall, now of red brick, extends west to become the southern wall of the kitchen garden. Beyond the west lawn, c 70m south-west of the house, is a sunken rhododendron dell. Steps from the path below the kitchen garden wall lead south down to a gravel path between azalea and rhododendron beds to a central circular pool, beyond which the path continues and emerges close to the boundary with the park. This feature was added to the gardens in the late C19. On the west side of the Dell is a croquet lawn. To the north of this lies an enclosed hidden woodland garden, while to the south a mid C20 tennis court has been added beside a small early C20 rose garden with central formal pool. A cherry-lined walk along the boundary with the park runs east past the south end of the tennis court, rose garden, and Dell to link back to the south lawn.

PARK The park at Riffhams lies mainly to the south of the house, enclosed along its western boundary by Hall Wood, and by thinner belts of trees along the south-east boundary, broken to give views north towards the house and gardens. Within these boundaries the park is laid to grass with a good scatter of mature trees, mainly oak and horse chestnut. At the lowest point in the south park, the stream running through it has been dammed to form two small lakes, c 170m south and south-west of the house. The south park was laid out following advice received from Humphry Repton in 1815 and it remains much as he proposed. To the north of Graces Lane lies Cedar Park. Laid to grass and enclosed by Blake's Wood, this area contains a few mature cedar of Lebanon which date from the same period as the main body of the park.

KITCHEN GARDEN The walled kitchen garden lies c 50m to the north-west of the house and appears to have been built at the same time, since one of the walls carries a date plaque of 1815. It is divided by grass paths and box-hedged borders which are cultivated for fruit, vegetables, and cut flowers. A range of C19 glasshouses are currently (2000) under restoration. In the south-east quarter a hedged enclosure screens a mid C20 swimming pool, created by the Benson family following the enlargement of a mid C19 lily pool.

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N Pevsner and E Radcliffe, The Buildings of England: Essex (1954), p 156

The Garden, (September 1983), p 366

English Heritage Inspector's Report (1988)

F Cowell and G Green, Repton in Essex (2000), pp 115-18

Maps

OS Surveyor's drawings, 1799 (Essex Record Office facsimile)

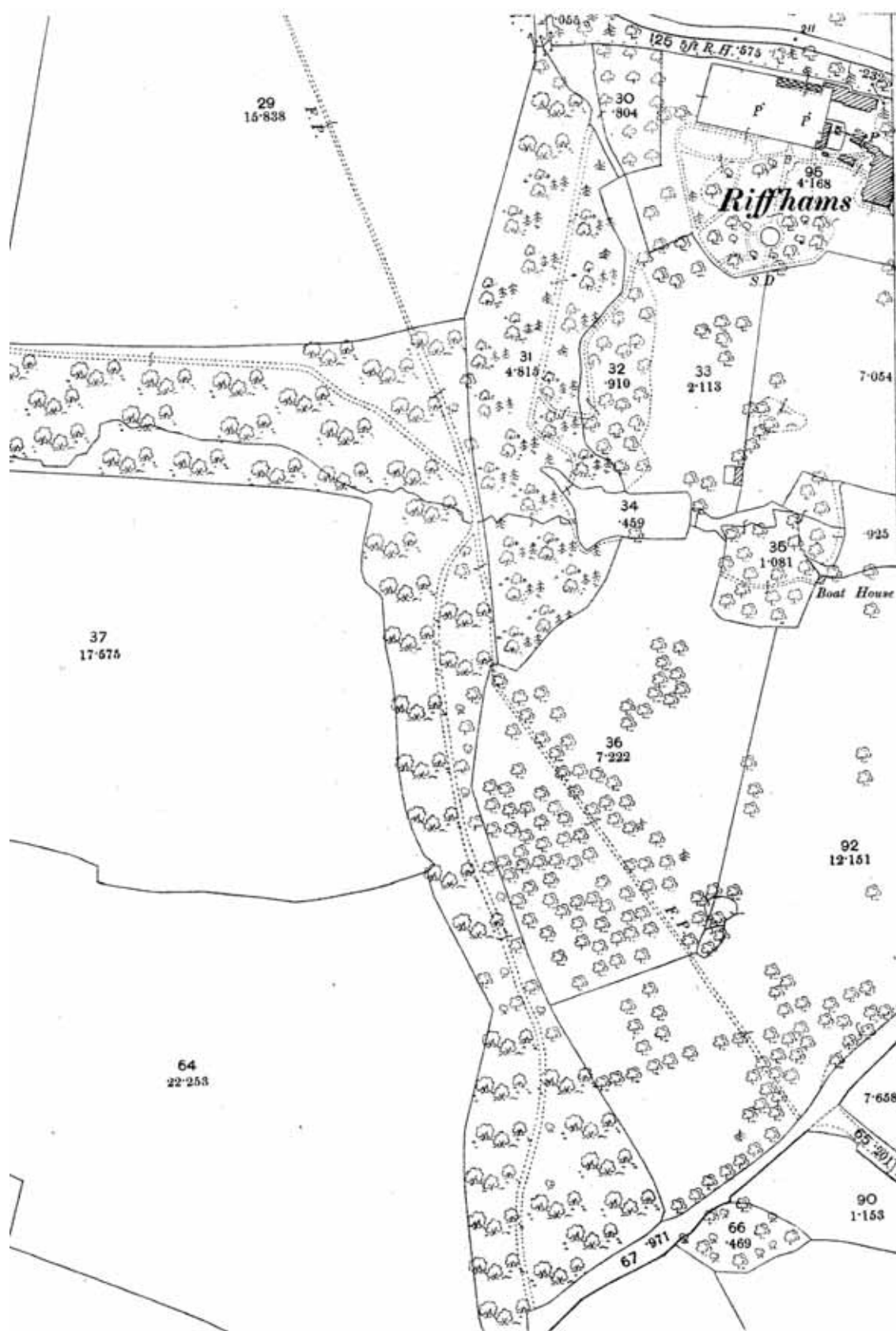
OS 25" to 1 mile: 1st edition published 1874 2nd edition published 1897

Illustrations

H Repton, Watercolour, 1815 (copy held at University of East Anglia)

Description written: December 2000 Amended: April 2001 Register Inspector: EMP Edited: September 2001

National Grid Reference: TL 77181 06038



25 inch second edition ordnance survey map of Riffhams 1897 – sheet 53.6
(reproduced by kind permission of the Essex Record Office)

CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL ROXWELL

SKREENS PARK

TL 620 083 (Old Skrenes, now Shepherds cottage)
TL 627 082 (C17 or earlier and C18 mansion)
TL 625 079 (Scout camp)

Skreens was purchased in 1635 by the Bramston family who developed the estate and parkland until its sale in 1908. They left a legacy of numerous small farms with many 'springs' (narrow woodland strips) in ancient countryside. After a subsequent sale in 1914, the 4500 acre estate was broken up and the mansion demolished. Part of the surviving parkland is now used as a Scout and Guide camp.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Skreens Park takes its name from the Skrene family who are recorded at Skreens from 1393 until 1478. They held legal positions such as serjeant at law but following them there was an unsettled period with several owners and tenants.

The first edition ordnance survey map records *Old Skrenes* at the current location of Shepherds Cottage, and Old Skrenes TL 62020830 is registered as an Historic Environment Record (Roxwell 683) with a medieval moat but little else is currently known about this site. The tithe award of 1842 describes this area as part of Old Skreens. A perambulation of Shellow parish boundaries in 1763 states "A post out of Ryegrass Field to Old Skreens gateway". (Willingale Church magazine). A 1639 map (ERO D/DXa 20) shows features consistent with a large house being in the area shown as Old Skrenes. (More Roxwell Revealed). Aerial photographs show numerous crop marks north of Shepherds Cottage. By the seventeenth century, estate maps record Skreens Park as being a moated site about a kilometre west of this medieval site but no record has been found of the move of Skreens to this new site (TL 627 082).

Richard Weston, a judge of the Common Pleas, purchased Skreens in 1544 and it remained in Weston ownership until Thomas Weston sold it to the newly appointed Lord Chief Justice, Sir John Bramston, in 1635. For more than 250 years, the Bramston family developed the park and grounds, built a new mansion, re-built Shellow church, developed Roxwell school, moved roads and created a farming estate with many tenanted farms and a landscape designed for a large shooting estate.

More maps were drawn of Skreens than any other estate in Essex in the seventeenth century (Mason) and it is extremely fortunate that the Essex Record Office has four of these estate maps. Most of the built environment has now gone, but many landscape features survive. The earliest map, dated at 1625 by the ERO shows no parkland. The next map, drawn in 1635, the year Sir John Bramston purchased the 924 acre estate, is roughly drawn but emphasises the 182 acre park to the south of the mansion. The next two maps, 1639 and 1660, give enormous detail of the moated site. They show straight avenues and the public road next to the mansion, the garden and field lay-out and use. John Hunter (Pers. comm.) believed the 1660 map by Coffyn showed the remains of the common strip field lay-out and that this landscape was probably once a medieval park which returned to parkland in 1635.

Thomas Bramston (Sir John Bramston the Elder's great-grandson) built a new house of brick on the same site as the seventeenth century mansion sometime between 1710 (White) and

1728 (1914 Sale catalogue). By the time of the 1777 Chapman and André map there is a total change in the designed landscape. A lake has been created on the site of the hop-grounds, the road has been moved away from the mansion and the approaches are becoming informal.

The grounds were greatly improved by Thomas's son and successor, Thomas Berney Bramston (1733-1813). John Johnson was employed for alterations including new stables c.1769-1771 (Briggs), but it is not known for sure who the landscape architect responsible for the major typical eighteenth-century landscaping was. The only written clue discovered so far is contained in a letter of 28th February 1770 from Bamber Gascoigne (1725-1791) to John Strutt (1727-1816) of Terling Place stating:

His [Bramston's] business is to communicate to you Mr. Richmond's intention of visiting Skreens. (Brown).

Gascoigne, Strutt and Bramston were all part of the close circle of Essex Tory MPs and the work is typical of that of Nathaniel Richmond 1723/4 – 1784.

The first edition ordnance survey map shows parkland, doubled to 400 acres and now surrounding the mansion, further public road changes, two lodges and winding approach drives. An interesting feature shown on the ordnance survey map is the walk round the exterior of the walled garden. The structure of the walled garden is shown almost as it is today, with narrow doors to the north, east and west.

Bramston ownership ceased in 1908 and the new owners, the Nicholson Shaws, greatly increased the house only to sell the 4,500 acre estate six years later. By 1921 the mansion was gone and the estate had been completely broken up into smallish owner occupied farms. Canon Tinley of St. Luke's church in the London docks purchased the parkland in 1925 and it was used as a holiday home for East End children. When there was no longer a demand for this use Canon Tinley gave the parkland to the Essex Scout Association. The lake is used by St Luke's fishing club.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Skreens Park, at 72 metres, (the highest point in the immediate area) lies about one mile west of Roxwell. The parkland is used as a Scout and Guide camp; the site of the house and the garden area are owned by a local farmer and are now in one small arable field with the same outline shown on the seventeenth century maps. The extant walled garden is privately owned and only a few roses and box bushes remain of the original plantings. The current boundaries are to the south of the mansion site and are in most parts similar to when the parkland was created about 1635. The location of Old Skrenes (near Shepherds cottage) is now north of the public road from Roxwell to Willingale and although it has been in arable use for many years, recent aerial photos show field boundaries as well as what could be garden features of Old Skrenes.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The approach to the house changed with the development of the park. The east brick built lodge (in the style of Frederick Chancellor) is at the entrance to the east carriage drive created about the time Chapman and André mapped the area. A mile further west on the Roxwell to Willingale road, a Gothic style thatched lodge built about 1812 (Pevsner), is at the current entrance to the Scout and Guide camp. The graceful west drive (mirroring the east drive) is a private drive and public footpath. The avenue of chestnut trees near the camp was planted in the early 1930s by Daniel Hall, who purchased some of the estate buildings in 1921.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

There is almost no trace of the house which was demolished about 1921. An earlier outbuilding is now a private dwelling and the owner also owns the walled garden which survives in good condition. The current scout buildings have been built in a style similar to the initial building erected by Canon Tinley.

PARK

One of the most striking features of the parkland is the numerous small clumps of trees. There are currently seven clumps of three English oak (*Quercus robur*), each of them planted in an equilateral triangle, with the trees nearly always 12-14 yards apart. In addition there are a further three pairs of oak trees which look as if they had originally been in a clump of three. These oak trees appear to be about one hundred years old. Similarly an oak and a lime look as if they have lost a third tree to complete the group. A group of chestnuts (*Castanea hippocastaneum*) between the scout buildings and the lake was felled about 2002. It is likely that the parkland timber was sold either when the Bramston family sold the estate in 1908 or when the estate was broken up from 1914- 1921. The current maturing plantings may be the work of the Nicholson Shaws or early Canon Tinley plantings. Three much older oaks have been retained. One about 200 years old is at the edge of the lake, an older one nearby is on the current park boundary by the site of the ice house. Another veteran oak is at the entrance to the camp, suffered from a fire about 2008 and is currently under-planted and surrounded by tall fencing. Mature willows and older oaks survive in the northeast corner of the site.

The western 20th century parkland boundary went along the Roxwell/Willingale parish boundary and is now a track with a predominantly elm hedgerow to the west and a line of oaks, of about 100 years in age to the east. An ordnance survey map shows this line with conifers. The surroundings of the three acre lake have been recently planted with odd conifers, some willow, alder and birch. One clump of *Lonicera distyla* remains on the northern bank of the lake.

Further planting was done in the 1990s by Rhone-Poulenc when they created the mixed hedge along the south west boundary and planted several groups of nine oaks (*Quercus rober*) in a square of 4x4 metres. The millennium plantings included an extension of the 1999 planting near the climbing wall; the Scout conservation group planted the belt running north/south along the centre of the park and further planting was done in spring 2012.

The site of the ice house is to the south-west of the parkland, but no trace of the ice house can be seen and the local farmer has seldom cultivated this small pocket of land

GARDEN

The area of pleasure grounds shown in the seventeenth century maps are now exactly the same area and shape of an arable field. Very clear signs of four terraces can be observed from the south in suitable light.

The garden at the west lodge has been developed since it was bought by Gilbert Harding-Green in 1956. Trees from that period include mulberry, ginkgo, taxodium, metasequoia and koelreuteria. It is likely that the strong framework of yew and box balls was designed by Humphrey Waterfield (1908-1971). The garden has since been developed by subsequent owners into an interesting spring garden. (English Garden)

WALLED GARDEN

The wall of the walled garden to the east of the house remains intact but the north and south entrances have been altered.

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Maps and Images

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1639 ERO D/DXa/20

1666 ERO D/DXa/21

1777 Chapman and André's map of Essex Plate XII

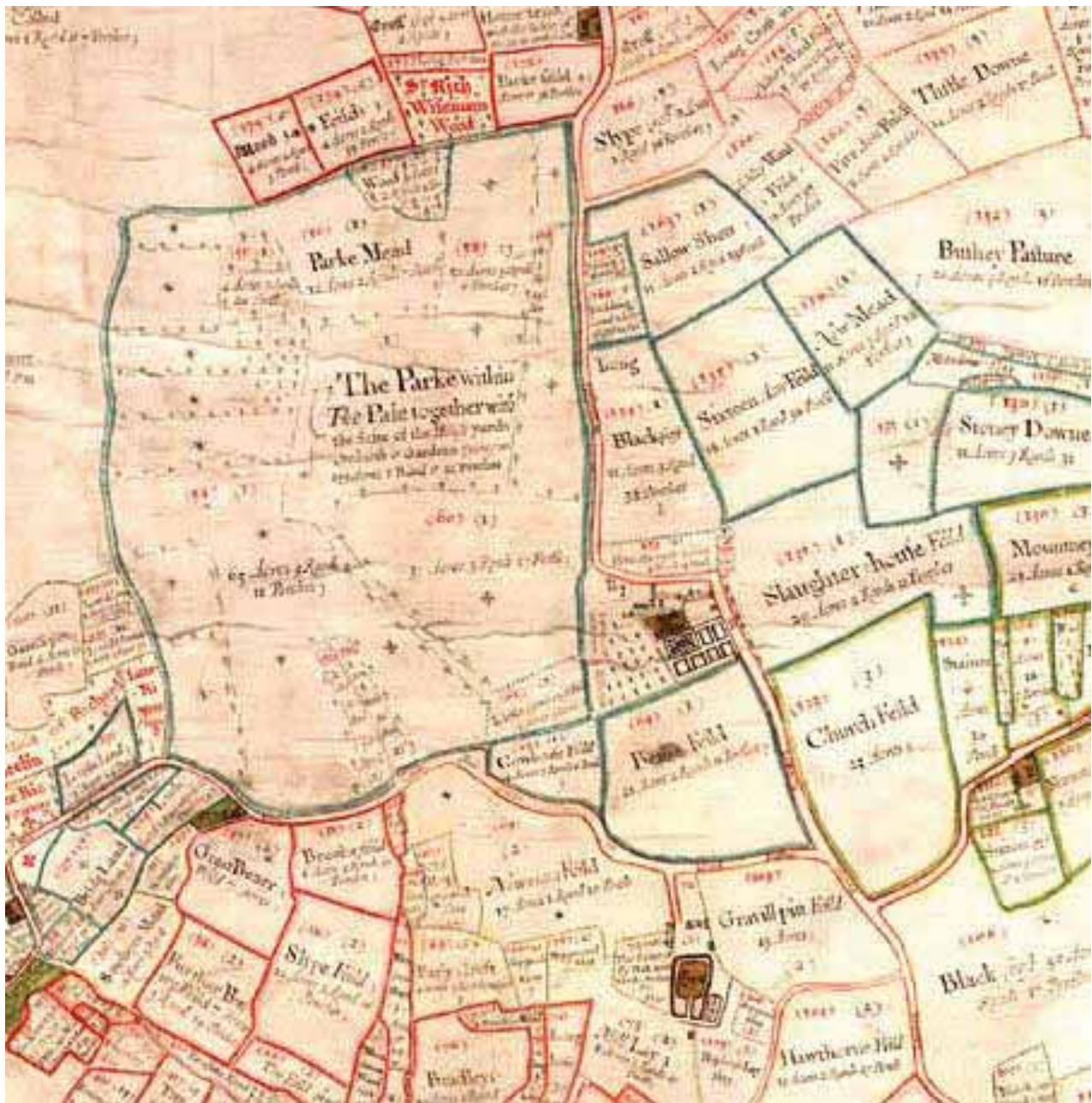
1842 Roxwell tithe map ERO D/CT 310b

1873 25" first edition ordnance survey maps 42.16, 43.13, 51.4, 52.1

1914 Skreens Park sales catalogue – private collection

Site Researcher: Ailsa Wildig

Site Visit: Ailsa Wildig August 2010



**John Coffyn's 1666 map of Skreens parkland
reproduced with kind permission of the Essex Record Office D/DXa 21)**



**Skreens Park from the 1914 sales catalogue
(private collection)**

TL 696 058

Late nineteenth century municipal cemetery, opened by Chelmsford Board of Health in 1886 with a combined gatehouse, chapel and lodge, designed by the Borough Surveyor, Charles Pertwee

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The Sanitary Committee of Chelmsford Local Board of Health considered three possible sites for a new cemetery for the county town in 1884, and eventually agreed to purchase about six acres of land from a Mr Cheveley in 1885, of which 'half was to be laid out with the necessary buildings, etc., at a cost of about £2,000, by the surveyor to the Chelmsford Board of Health, Charles Pertwee'. (*The Builder* 1885), loans being required from a local building society and from the Local Government Board. Construction of the buildings by a Mr Gozzett began after February 1886, and the cemetery was consecrated by the Bishop of St Albans on 3 August 1886. There was apparently at first no unconsecrated part of the cemetery and hence no provision for Non-Conformist or other burials. Certain areas were set aside for Catholic burials in 1963 and for Muslim and other burials in 2003.

The cemetery was extended to the east in 1903, to a design by Cuthbert Brown, the Borough Surveyor, and then successively to the south, and later also to the west, in 1929, 1939, 1947, 1967 and 2003. Land was bought up, possibly as early as 1939, extending to the west for about one hundred metres and to the south as far as the new by-pass around Chelmsford: the extra land initially being given over to allotments. The Crematorium, a much later addition to the Cemetery, was officially opened on Saturday 18 November 1961 by the then Mayor, Alderman Mrs J.P.Roberts. At the time there was only one chapel but a second chapel was built in 1984 to accommodate additional services. The original chapel, known as the South Chapel, was extensively refurbished in June 2007.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM & SETTING

The cemetery was established on the south-west edge of Chelmsford, immediately south of Writtle Road and west of the main railway line to London. The area of land in 1886 was just over six acres, of which the western half was initially laid out for use. By 2010 the maximum area in municipal ownership was incorporated into the cemetery. The cemetery is bounded to its north by Writtle Road; to its east by the railway line; to its south by the A122, originally the Chelmsford by-pass; and to its west by an industrial and trading estate, which includes the 'Britvic Tower' on the boundary. The cemetery was initially adjoined on its west by a rectangular plot of about two acres containing a house and a large garden; this still remains, functioning as a commercial nursery garden. To the west of this is a block of flats was erected, probably when a new road entrance to the crematorium was opened further to the west on Writtle Road. Railings at Writtle Road were designed by local firm of Corbett and Moreton.

The site is on fairly level ground. The part of the cemetery opened initially is on the highest part of the site, while the remainder slopes very gradually down to the south-west. Further to the west the River Widd flows northwards to join the River Can which flows to the east through the town.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The original entrance to the cemetery was on Writtle Road, through a gateway that formed part of the principal range of buildings, with a small service entrance to its east, since closed. The approach from the town affords a fairly broad view of the cemetery, where the Writtle Road rises over the railway bridge. When the crematorium was built access to it was through the cemetery, but a separate entrance was opened to the west of the nursery in a part of the site which had previously been allotments. By 2010 the only vehicle access to the cemetery was through the latter entrance.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

A combined lodge, gatehouse and chapel, designed in a vernacular neo-Gothic style by Charles Pertwee, borough surveyor in 1886, is ranged from west to east on the north edge of the cemetery, side-on to and set back from the Writtle Road. A central gabled cross-wing contains the entrance formed, on both ends of the cross-wing, by a high, pointed central arch with two smaller pedestrian side-arches. The entrance cross-wing is flanked by the two-storey lodge, to the west, and the chapel, open to the timber-framed roof, to the east. Both side-buildings are entered from the central entrance way. Externally the walls of the building are faced with roughly-cut squared limestone, laid randomly, with a red brick plinth and dressings. The high, steep-sided roof is tiled, with decorated terracotta ridge tiles and terracotta moulded eaves to the chapel. The entrance gables contain pargetted plaster panels in timber framing, with deep barge boards in front. The chapel is lit by relatively low, wide windows with shallow pointed arches, in the side-walls, and a small rose window in the east gable. The lodge has mullioned windows, and two red brick chimney stacks. A red brick wall with wrought-iron railings between brick piers runs in front of this building, with a wide splayed opening to the entrance. Plain railings run further to the east along the road, which rises to the railway bridge.

A second building was added in 1987. The size, alignment and proportions of this building are similar to those of the original building; it has a higher roof ridge, and its walls are faced with similar limestone, although not roughly cut, in panels between red brick piers.

The crematorium is a fairly large single-storey building ranged from north to south, but its shallow pitched roofs and external wall-facing of light yellow brick, with occasional panels of white limestone sculpted in relief, have the effect of minimising its apparent size. A central tower and service block is flanked to north and south by chapels, lit by clerestory windows. Further to the south an unwallled structure, a timber-framed roof supported on timber columns arranged around a central opening, appearing somewhat Oriental in style, shelters floral tributes.

LAYOUT AND PLANNING

The first part of the cemetery to be opened contains broad paths arranged around a large central circle so as to form a Celtic cross in plan. In the centre of this cross is a fine, mature Wellingtonia, and the four arms of the cross are flanked by clipped pairs of Irish and golden

yews. A hedge-bank with holly and hawthorn marks off the nursery garden to the north-west. The second half of the cemetery opened to the east in 1903 is on a similar plan with a blue-green fir in the centre of its cross, the four arms of the cross each being flanked by two clipped pairs of Irish and golden yews. The railway line, running in a shallow cutting, is protected by plain wrought-iron railings, and masked by a bank with beech, Scots pine, Portugal laurel and other laurels, and poplar. A line of planes and Scots pines runs along the southern edge of the original cemetery. Headstones and memorials are fairly well distributed across the grass, with a few First World War graves to the east and a cluster of very recent relatively flamboyant 'showman' memorials near the east end of the chapel, very visible from the road.

A relatively shallow extension was made along the southern boundary of the cemetery in 1929, with broad paths running around its edges. A plain railing runs along the railway cutting there, with occasional flowering cherry and hawthorn. A further smaller rectangular area was added to the west in 1939, running up to a western boundary in line with the western edge of the nursery garden to its north. The area further to the west, marked by a line of cypresses on its eastern and southern edges, was earmarked in 1939 for future expansion, but in the event the next addition to the cemetery, in 1947, was to the south of the 1929 extension. The paths in the 1939 and subsequent extensions are of poured concrete, while the previous paths have tarmac surfaces, presumably covering original surfaces of gravel. A memorial at the western end of the 1939 area commemorates 99 workers in a local factory (Hoffman Manufacturing Co Ltd) killed by bombing in the Second World War. Several Second World War graves (and one memorial of 1915) form a distinct group on the southern edge of the 1939 area, with lawn-like grass and continuous flower beds between the headstones, laid out by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The 1947 extension is bounded to its south by a line of flowering cherries, and occasional sycamore and beech, interspersed with low bushes of clipped yew. This planting continues further to the west, in front of a brick wall around the north-east corner of the adjacent Britvic factory. The western end of the 1947 extension contains the crematorium, with a memorial wall of light yellow brick to its east, numerous memorial rose beds, and a grove of silver birch surrounded by daffodils and other flowers in season. An ornamental lily pond adjoins the structure for floral tributes; a swamp cypress is in the open centre of this structure. The area to the west and north-west of the crematorium has been turned over to an approach road for vehicles and car park. The vehicles enter and leave by a single gate on Writtle Road, but follow a one-way loop, past secondary car-parking bays, to the crematorium and a large open car park; the road back runs along the western edge of the site, from which it is screened by a beech hedge.

The remainder of the site, to the south of the 1947 extension, has been progressively opened in three stages up to 2003, marked by a line of cypresses and then by beech hedges. These later areas contain rows of headstones back to back, without kerb sets, for easier mowing of the grass. The adjoining main road is elevated on a concrete-faced ramp as it approaches a bridge over the railway, and has high walls to deflect traffic noise. In the southern part of the cemetery, anodised steel fencing with razor wire protects the top of the railway cutting on the east and a concrete-panel wall forms the western boundary. Beech hedges are being grown to mask the road and railway fencing and the concrete wall. Today the cemetery provides new lawn graves, cremated remains plots, Showmen's Graves, and a Muslim burial section.

SOURCES

Books and articles

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Maps and Images

1921 25 inch ordnance survey map sheet 54.14

1939 25 inch ordnance survey map sheet 54.14

Written Archive Documents

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1904 Plan of addition ERO D/C/C55/2

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1939 Addition ERO D/C/C90/3

1947 Addition ERO D/D/C98/5

Websites

Researcher: Sarah Green

Site Visit: Sarah Green, various

SITES NOT INCLUDED IN THE INVENTORY

The following sites were researched partly or fully, but were not included in the inventory. Some proved to be of minor significance, others have been too extensively altered to merit inclusion. Not infrequently, adequate evaluation was impossible, due to a lack of archive material or being unable to obtain permission to visit. The notes below are brief summaries of the sites that were not included, the files with fuller information, as well as copies of old maps and other images, have been retained in the Essex Gardens Trust archives.

Baddow Park, Great Baddow: Grid Ref: TL 724 025

In 1244 Baddow Park was a deer park. An early reference to Baddow Park is in the will of John Pascall, Esq dated 1581. The original house was replaced in 1890 with the house that stands today. In 1946 the property was bought by Horace Kilian together with 68 acres. During the second world war the house was requisitioned by the Ministry of Defence for military personnel. Today Baddow Park is a wedding and functions venue set within 60 acres of landscaped grounds.

Baileys, Mashbury: Grid Ref: TL 646 135

A Grade II early 15th century timber-framed and plastered moated farmhouse. Bailey's is a courtyard house with further brick outbuildings, with a moat laying to the immediate north of the house with an arm extending further north. The modern aerial photograph indicates smallish grounds around the Hall itself, trees and undergrowth.

Boreham Old Rectory, Boreham: Grid Ref: TL 755 109

Boreham Old Rectory is a listed Grade II* late 15th century timber-framed and plastered house considerably restored in the 20th century with timber-framing exposed in the cross wings. The current owners have lived at the Old Rectory for forty years and say that 'the garden used to be very wild when we first arrived'. One plant that pre dates the time of the current owners is a giant 50 year-old gunnera. A stream runs through the garden and where the stream joins the roadway there is a sign on the pavement side of the fence skirting the property that reads 'Boreham Spout – the original source of water for the Village'.

Brent Hall, Boreham: Grid Ref: TL 750 126

Brent Hall is a listed Grade II late 18th century red brick house and was one of six manors of Boreham. The Seabrook family lived at Brent Hall from the end of the eighteenth century and worked as farmers. At the end of the nineteenth century, as a result of the agricultural depression, William Seabrook began to explore the possibilities of specialised fruit production. Although he initially grew peaches and nectarines, in 1886 he expanded the company to include apple-growing. The apples were later exported throughout the world, including South Africa. The company ceased apple growing in England in the early 1990s and moved their business to Holland, where they continue to produce apples for the commercial market. The Seabrook family still farms in Essex. In the 1999 sales particulars (ERO SALE/C1482) the estate covered 46 acres and the house had views over the two large lakes that were former gravel pits. These lakes were landscaped in the 1990's. Mown banks sloped down to the lakes and to the east of the house there was a further lawn with trees edged by laurels. To the north of the house there were lawns, shrubberies, holm oak, and oaks. An 18th century octagonal horse ginn house is also listed and was, at the time of the gravel quarrying, moved. 2005 sales information describes the Hall as being approached over an impressive driveway and boasting 46 acres of grounds featuring both formal and informal

gardens. A comprehensive tree-planting scheme comprised some 5,000 trees including ash, maple and oak.

Broomfield Hall, Broomfield: Grid Ref: TL 704 104

A timber framed and plastered house of 15th century origin, built on a half H shaped plan, with late 17th century alterations and additions, currently set within heavily wooded grounds. The ordnance survey map of 1875 indicates 'driveway', walks through a shrubbery or wooded area, pond, possible orchard, and a formal area or productive gardens. A 1936 sales catalogue describes lawns, borders, flower beds, summerhouses and a vegetable and fruit gardens. By 1986 the gardens appear to have been predominantly lawns and shrubbery with an 'informal' lawned walled garden, and a large pond to the east.

Broomwood, Chignall St James: Grid Ref: TL 688 098

Broomwood was built by Fred Rowntree for Miller Christy, the Essex historian and naturalist, in 1912-13 in the 'Elizabethan' style, half-timbered with mostly red brick noggin. The house has a secluded setting in several acres of wooded grounds at the end of a tree-lined drive.

Chatham Hall, Little Waltham: Grid Ref: TL 705 137

An original 15th century timber framed hall and cross wing, with a larger 19th century two-storey gabled block built on. Currently set in a small garden within the context of a wider landscape with relict features indicative both of the 19th century gardens and 'grounds'. The whole lies to the east of the River Chelmer and the house overlooks the river across the current entrance drives and lawns, sloping to the river. Possible 'terraces' between the house and the river, seen as earthwork features on the modern aerial photograph, may indicate garden/landscaping pre-dating the 19th century and appear to line up with the smaller garden shown on the 1777 Chapman and André map of Essex, although the small scale of this makes this difficult to assess. Water features to the north of the house and in a field to the south may also indicate earlier landscaping features/original moated site and ponds. A considerable number of outbuildings seen on the 1875 ordnance survey map are no longer present.

Crondon Park, Stock: Grid Ref: TL 691 004

The manor of Crondon is shown in the Domesday Book as part of the fief of the Bishop of London and had a Royal deer park. The deer park dated from about 1205 as on 30 November 1204 a licence was granted by King John to the Bishop of London empowering him to enclose the park. The manor of Crondon passed to the Crown and was sold to Sir William Petre of Ingatestone in 1545. In 1551 part of the estate was disparted and leased by the Petres into several farms. Michael Mason leased Crondon Park Farm in 1815 and he established a Catholic mission there, served by the Jesuit fathers. In the 1830's the Crondon Park house was razed to the ground and a new house built nearby in 1835. Crondon Park is now a golf course: the farmhouse is now a bed and breakfast establishment and overlooks the eighteenth fairway. The barns are used as the golf clubhouse and as an events venue with extensive car parking.

Downham Hall, Downham: Grid Ref: TQ 731 951

Downham Hall is shown on Chapman & André's 1777 map of Essex as being the residence of Osmond Beauvor Esq and has a few elements of design in the grounds around the house. Downham Hall is now called Downham Hall Farm and the mid 18th century red brick octagonal dovecote, listed as Grade DL, has been moved from the farmyard to St.Margaret's churchyard in Downham.

Downham Grange, Downham: Grid ref: TQ 735 987

The Grange until the late 1960's was owned by the Keddies family, owners of the Southend department store. In 1952 the Keddies employed three gardeners and one gardener described having to mow six acres of lawn. The 1975 sales particulars (ERO SALE/198) describe the Grange as a fine period house standing in an elevated position with extensive views over the surrounding countryside. The gardens and grounds were described as a particular feature of the property with the long gravelled driveway, lined on one side with lawns and rhododendrons, leading over a small bridge over a dell to the entrance front. The house could also be approached by a secondary entrance to a large tarmacadamed area behind the house. In this area are extensive buildings including a barn. A terraced lawn was bordered by a shrubbery with a terrace of fishponds with a waterfall leading to tennis court and swimming pool. Beyond the terraced lawn was a young woodland plantation of 2¾ acres planted about seven years earlier with larch, red oaks and Thuya. There are other specimen trees including Scots pines. Close to the house there was also a large vegetable garden with soft fruit cages, heated greenhouse and potting shed. The woodland appears today on modern aerial photography to have matured considerably. The two driveways are still in use and several ancillary buildings are shown.

Dynes (Dyves) Hall, Chignal Smealy: Grid Ref: TL 671 115

Originally the Manor of Dyves Hall, the mansion house stood about a quarter of a mile south-east from the church, partly surrounded by a moat: and was a large edifice built mostly by the Luckyn family. The 1875 first edition ordnance survey shows the moat and water features, the main house with glass conservatory to south side, considerable timber to east of moat, along a stream or ditch, stables, etc. There is coniferous planting on lawns to the south-west. Modern aerial photography shows a lot of wood cover.

East Hanningfield Hall, East Hanningfield: Grid Ref: TL 765 998

A Grade II timber-framed and plastered house possibly of C16 origin, altered and added to in the 18th century and later. The Hall lies considerably to the south of the village (adjacent to the site of the church prior to its removal following a fire in the mid-19th century) and currently sits within 8.5 acres.

Edwins Hall, Woodham Ferrers: Grid Ref: TQ 811 993

Edwins Hall is Grade II* listed, the remaining part of a much larger late 16th century moated house, said to have been built by Edwin Sandys, Archbishop of York in 1576 as his summer palace.. Most of the moat remains and there are parts of an outer moat. Recent excavations indicate earlier buildings on the site and construction of the moat in the C13/C14. The 1992 sales particulars (ERO SALE/B8216) give a good description of the gardens and the several wooden bridges that traverse the moat at intervals. One led to the old vegetable garden, sheltered by a brick wall to the north and to the north of the house was a tennis court and a small rockery. The grounds in 1992 extended to approximately 9¾ acres.

Fristling Hall, Stock: Grid Ref: TL 680 001

The first plan indicating the layout of the manorial complex at Fristling Hall is Chapman and André's map of 1777. This shows 'Thyrstlinge Hall' as a typical courtyard complex. The 1780 map shows the moats much as they are today. What is particularly interesting is the name of the two fields, shown on this map, as Upper and Lower Park Field. This would seem to confirm that these fields had an earlier ornamental function as a 'park'. A new house was built on the site in 1851 and the loss of the earlier house also resulted in a loss of the strongly

defined court layout. After 1881 the farm was run as part of the Petre estate and managed by A C Marriage, a local farmer. The house was extended in 1886. The farm was sold by the Petre estate in 1936, at this time the estate covered 297 acres and spread across Buttsbury, Stock, and Margaretting. The present house stands on a ridge and is partly surrounded by a moat

Great Claydons, East Hanningfield: Grid ref: TL762 018

Great Claydons is a 'Georgian' style mansion house, described in the English Heritage listing as predominantly mid to late 19th century. By 1920 the house was set within approximately 80 acres of 'park like' grounds with gardens of about four acres. The gardens comprised lawns, tennis lawn, pool, orchards, vinery, and kitchen garden. The grounds surrounding were well-timbered with a range of native deciduous trees. By 1948, when the house was sold, the orchard and other parts of the grounds had been partially turned to fruit production and small holding, presumably as a result of the war effort and the post-war shortages. The land had been till or mole drained and 6 acres wired in and planted with dessert apples. The current appearance of the immediate setting is little changed, with driveway from the north-east corner to the north of the house passing through wooded area at the entrance, a large pond is to the west of the site, and remnants of the walled productive gardens to the south. A further pond or remnant moat lies further to the west. The house was advertised for sale in 2003 and the house was described as standing in some 86 acres of paddocks, woodland, gardens and grounds, which included a cricket pitch, a swimming-pool, and outstanding equestrian facilities.

Great Graces, Little Baddow: Grid Ref: TL765 064

Grade II listed 16th century house set in grounds of 13 acres with views across the Chelmer Valley. Set on the edge of Nature Conservation Zone and Special Landscape Area. In the late 18th century the gardens laying to the south comprised six plats or squares in a style reminiscent of much earlier gardens. To the east was a more open area. The western approach to the house was via a very long avenue which crossed the Sandon Brook half way along its length. By the late 19th century the six 'plats' had gone and a 'well' was marked in the centre of that area which may have been an original feature. The long tree lined avenue, Graces Walk, is a popular footpath today.

Great Waltham House, Great Waltham: Grid Ref: TL700 147

Formerly Great Waltham Rectory, the Manor was given to Waltham Abbey by Geoffrey de Mandeville, then via Richard Rich to the Master and Fellows of Trinity College, Oxford. The house was referred to in the 1579 inventory as The Parsonage and by 1676 it was referred to as The Rectory. The 1777 Chapman and André map shows the Parsonage with a small quartered garden to the south of the house against the river. An estate map of 1790 contains more detail of the quartered garden. By the period of the first ordnance survey of the area (1875) the gardens of 'Waltham House' comprised a carriageway entrance from the north, an open lawn to the north and south with specimen conifers and to the south-east a kitchen garden, sub-divided into two. A walk or carriage drive led from the house south by the River Chelmer to a Boat House to the south of the meadow. Sale of the property in 1950 describes the lawns, shrubberies, rose beds, herbaceous borders, brick pergola, sunken garden with lily pool, and a thatched summer house. The kitchen garden was described as being in 'a high state of fertility'. The property was sold again in 1991 and the sales catalogue records the wide herbaceous border was 'designed by Major S Vernon Daniell'. The same sales particulars refers to the walled kitchen garden where at the east end 'is a heated swimming pool which was designed by the late Lanning Roper'

Gubbions Hall, Great and Little Leighs: Grid Ref: TL 735 177

A 17th century listed timber-framed and plastered house surrounded by a moat. The moat is recorded as a Scheduled Ancient Monument No.33249. Gubbions Hall originated as a moated manor house considered old by the 14th century. The manor was sold in the C16. In the late 18th century there is no evidence for a large garden or park. In 1875 the Ordnance Survey suggests the considerable complex of buildings off the moated site, and a single building within. The access from the north-south road passed mixed tree planting on one side, and also across a broken series of long north-south ponds or stream. To the west of the moated site a line of trees may mark an older boundary or walk towards a second small more circular moat backing on to Moat Wood. At the beginning of the 20th century a description confirms the small scale of the garden within the moat and associated with the house (less than an acre including the productive garden), but a 6 acre 'park' studded with old oak and other deciduous trees lay to the south and west and including the other moated site. By 1945 wooden bridges crossed the moat and a single specimen tree was located on the lawn whilst further shrub and flower planting was created on the edge of the moat. In 1977 the site was passed to the Abbeyfields Trust and is now used for independent 'sheltered' living accommodation. The gardens have been kept up and appear to have been 'improved' and extended with a formal long garden to the west of the house outside of the moat, lawns, summerhouse etc. These are of unknown date (but presumably post 1940s).

Guy Harlings, Chelmsford: Grid Ref: TL 709 069

In 1453 Guy Harling inherited from his father, John, a dwelling with an adjoining malt house and Guy's widow continued the brewing business after his death. John Richard Comyns, later a Baron of the Exchequer, built the current Guy Harlings in around 1716 to 1721 on the site of the timber-framed Tudor town house. Guy Harlings was sold to Dr Baddeley, a physician, in 1785 and in 1798 bought the adjoining house and gave the two buildings a common façade. There is a possible Humphry Repton connection as an engraving of 'Scene in the Garden of Dr Baddeley' appeared in *The Polite Repository* 1811. The property was bought in 1909 by the Trustees for the Diocese of Chelmsford and the house became the Rectory for the parish of Chelmsford. In 1951 the house was converted for use as the Diocesan Office. Part of the garden was taken for building additions in 1979.

Horsefrith Park, Highwood: Grid Ref: TL618 046

A timber framed and plastered Grade II 17th century house much altered in 18th and 19th centuries and renovated in the 20th century. Sales particulars in 1938 refer to an extensive estate including the house, ten cottages, farm buildings, etc. amounting to 370 acres. It was at that time a freehold dairy and mixed farm. The house was described as being set in pleasing surroundings with a partly walled fertile kitchen garden. A much later sales document of 1990 refers to Horsefrith Park being set in just over twelve acres. The walled kitchen garden is again mentioned along with the Yorkstone paved terrace flanked by fig trees and box hedge. The garden mainly south of the house laid to level lawns with large mature trees.

Hyde Hall, Great Waltham: Grid Ref: TL 709 155

A moated timber-framed manor house built C1600 with a jettied four gables façade.. Part of the moat remains on the south-west side of the brick garden wall. Hyde Hall stands in well maintained mature landscaped grounds extending to about three acres. A poplar lined driveway culminates in an area of hard standing. The principal gardens sweep around the house from the east to the west and are mainly laid to lawns interspersed by a number of

mature specimen trees surrounded by traditional hedging which backs directly onto the surrounding countryside. In front of the house is a walled garden with a gravelled walk around a lawn with a central shrub bed and backed by deep flowerbeds. The wall descends to the former moat, well planted with bulrushes and overlooked by a brick and tiled outhouse.

Hyde Hall, Rettendon: Grid Ref: TQ782 995

Hyde Hall was a working farm and in 1955 when Dr and Mrs Robinson bought the estate there were only six trees on the top of a windswept hill and no garden. The site was cold and windy, the top of the hill was covered in gravel and the soil on the slopes comprised a sticky clay. Mrs Robinson cleared areas around the house and created herbaceous borders and a vegetable garden. The first structural plantings in the garden came in the late 1950's when the Robinsons purchased 60 trees. Today these trees form much of the shade cover in the Woodland Garden. The house, which dates back to the 18th century, is a typical Essex farmhouse. At the back of the house Mrs Robinson discovered the Tudor brick floor of an old stable which became a natural pavement garden. Shelter belts were planted in the 1960's of Lawson and Leyland cypress hedges. At the end of the 1960's the farmland to the west of the main hilltop was incorporated into the rest of the garden. In the 1970's the Robinsons formed the Hyde Hall Garden Trust which would manage the garden on a long term basis. In 1993 the Robinsons gifted Hyde Hall to the Royal Horticultural Society, since when the site has been developed and expanded by the RHS into the wonderful gardens it is today.

Little Newarks, Good Easter: Grid Ref: TL 643 116

Chapman and André's 1777 map shows Little Newarks with a small garden plot and the late 19th century ordnance survey maps suggest little in the way of garden or designed garden.

Little Waltham Hall, Little Waltham: Grid Ref: TL 712 126

Little Waltham Hall is a Grade II 18th century listed house, but very much altered in the C19 and later. The garden has been fragmented and a large Leylandii hedge obscures any view out: the 'fish pond' is now in the next garden. The owner in 1837 was Maurice William Bird and he had several tenants. The water mill earthworks lay outside the property according to the 1837 tithe records.

Little Waltham Lodge, Little Waltham: Grid Ref: TL705 124

Little Waltham Lodge is an early-mid 19th century gault brick house, Grade II listed. The 1979 sales document (ERO D717) describe the house as being 'approached by a shingle driveway which passes through wrought iron gates flanked by brick pillars. To the rear of the house is a coach house with upper floor. To the west is a paved courtyard screened by a high brick wall, a brick dovecot, and a pair of brick built stables. The gardens lie mainly to the south-east and west of the house and have been laid out to complement the property. There is a steep and attractive vista from the main entrance running south-east and comprising a paved walkway with formal lawns bordered by roses and leading to further lawned areas and tennis court, screened by conifers and featuring a splendid Cedar of Lebanon.' In 1979 the grounds covered 2.5 acres.

Little Waltham Rectory, Little Waltham: Grid Ref: TL 711 126

The Rectory is Grade II listed, originally a 17th century house but very much altered in the C18 and later. It is now fronted in grey gault brick. The 1990 sales particulars (ERO SALE/D1547) described the house as sitting in secluded easily maintained grounds close to the church. At this time level lawns at the south of the house were protected from the east by a high red brick wall and from the north by the house. In the centre of the lawn was a

rectangular ornamental pond with deep shrubberies around the edge. Lawns extended to the west where there were a number of fine trees, including copper beech, holm oak, yew and cedar. Beyond the drive was a deep shrubbery with partly walled garden with red brick wall to three sides with lawns and tennis court.

Lyons Hall, Great and Little Leighs: Grid Ref: 737 156

Lyons Hall is a listed timber framed and plastered house of 15th century origin. The first edition 25" ordnance survey map of 1874 shows a small garden with very little landscaping and tree lined boundaries. In recent years the garden has been laid out to a formal design: the boundary trees still remain.

Margaretting Hall, formerly the Rectory, Margaretting: Grid Ref: TL 663 006

Margaretting Hall is Grade II listed and is an early 19th century red brick house. Lord Petre was the lord of the manor of Margaretting Hall, held by his family since 1592. The 1780 draft map of Margaretting Hall shows an outline of the fields belonging to the Petre estate surrounding the Hall, but no formal garden is shown. In 1843 the Great Eastern Railway line was extended to Chelmsford and Colchester and compensation was paid to the Rectory/Hall for the loss of over eight acres. The railway line runs within yards of the Hall.

Old Lodge Farm, Springfield: Grid Ref: TL 728 099

The Grade II listed house is early nineteenth century with a grey gault brick front to an earlier building. Originally the site of Old Lodge Farm stood within the New Hall parkland and was probably the location of the original medieval park lodge. The parkland was parcelled up for agricultural use throughout the nineteenth century, but the immediate setting of the farm remained open, with a formal walled garden to the west of the house. In the 1930 sales particulars the house was approached by an avenue of elms with a large meadow lying in front which was well timbered, giving it a picturesque and park like appearance. The estate then covered 250 acres. New houses have been built within metres of the front of Old Lodge and are in stark contrast to the traditional agricultural layout of the farm and its buildings.

Old Riffhams, Little Baddow: Grid Ref: TL 777 065

Old Riffhams is a Grade II* listed mid 16th century building, possibly with an earlier core, but almost completely refaced in red brick, with a parapet, in the eighteenth century. Riffhams was probably created during the Middle Ages as a subsidiary manor of Graces, but with few manorial rights. John Roberts Spencer-Phillips inherited the estate at the beginning of the nineteenth century and in 1815 Spencer Phillips had a new house, New Riffhams, built. The current owners have developed beautiful gardens over the past forty years and acquired an additional 15 acres of woodland in 1974. The woodland contains the valley of a small stream and ponds have been freed from the silt of centuries. Waterfalls have been created, a network of bridges span the natural brooks and connect islands. There are two miles of undulating woodland paths and all have been given names. There is a dense tree canopy and the woods are underplanted with rhododendrons, azaleas, and camellias.

A Victorian brick floored terrace runs along the rear of the house and the retaining wall has urn capped steps leading down to the lawn. This lawned area is the formal compartment of the gardens and separating the terrace from the lawned area are rose beds. The lawn slopes down to a symmetrically designed area in which there is a sunken swimming pool that, due to its position, is discretely screened from the house. Behind the swimming pool terrace is a tall brick wall which has in the centre an arched gate leading down past herbaceous shrub and

rose beds to the upper pond which has an extensive rock garden at one end with rhododendrons forming a shrubbery to the rear of the pond.

Plesheybury, Pleshey: Grid Ref: TL657 143

Plesheybury is listed Grade II and is a timber-framed and plastered hall house, probably of 16th century origin with a floor inserted in the 17th century. The property has undergone several periods of modernisation, alteration and extension. The gardens surround the house: to the front of the house is a lawn area with shrub borders and a former moat and spinney. To the west of the garages and outbuildings is a further lawn area with a number of trees, an orchard, and a large pond. Adjacent to the moat is a small terrace and garden with a second small pond with a willow, extending to the productive vegetable garden. To the south the garden opens out into an unfenced paddock.

Pleshey Grange, Pleshey: Grid Ref: TL 656 149

The ordnance survey maps of 1923 and 1955 do not show any garden design layout. Sales information in Country Life (18 May 1995) describe the 39 acre estate as having gardens designed by the owner Marilyn Darlington. The accompanying photographs show beautifully laid out formal gardens and a well established laburnum arch.

Quaker Burial Ground, Broomfield Road, Chelmsford: Grid Ref: TL 704 078

Burials caused concern to early Quakers. All burials took place in the local churchyard and were carried out by the priest with the Church Burial Service. Quakers could not accept this, so they had to acquire their own burial ground, and often the burial ground was acquired before the building of the Meeting house. Chelmsford Meeting has had several burial grounds as it has moved Meeting Houses. The first was in Baddow Road, and then in Duke Street, and the current burial ground is off Broomfield Road. It was laid out in 1855, and contains headstones from the burial ground in Duke Street. There are magnificent Cedar of Lebanon trees along Broomfield Road and in the burial ground, which have grown from seeds collected from the holy land by visiting Chelmsford Quakers. The Meeting House is in Rainsford Road.

Rettendon (New) Hall, Rettendon: TQ771 966

Rettendon Hall lies to the east of the main road, opposite Rettendon Old Hall, about a quarter of a mile north of the church and Rettendon Place. The Hall was built c1900. The site was for sale in 1928 and lived in by a Scottish Regiment during the second world war. The site appears to have maintained much of the original c1900 gardens, including lawns, beds, borders, and (later) brick pergola, croquet and tennis lawns. The predominant feel of the gardens is Edwardian with brick and stonework, lawns and borders. The walled productive garden has been modified to include a swimming pool and sun room, but the shell still remains, and other parts still retain productive function. Belts of oak, ash, etc. on the road front have matured and form a shelter screen for the house and grounds.

Rettendon (Old) Hall, Rettendon: Grid Ref: TQ 769 965

A Grade II listed timber-framed and weather boarded house with a mid eighteenth century red brick front. In 1950 the Hall was sold with nearly one acre as LOT 1, while LOT 2 was a model dairy farm with 139 acres. The 1950 sales particulars describe the garden surrounding the house as compact but attractive and includes stone terraces leading to lawns with flower beds, a small grass orchard and kitchen garden with greenhouse.

Rettendon Place, Rettendon: Grid Ref: TQ 770 960

Rettendon Place lies adjacent to the church on the east and south. The first edition 25" to the ordnance survey map dated 1873 shows an entrance from the road to the house via a carriageway lined by conifers and mixed deciduous on the north. To the south is a pond and some indication of shrubs. To the east of the house a sub-divided area could be lawn, courts or productive garden and to the south of this lies an area of orchard. The second edition ordnance survey map dated 1896 shows the driveway dividing between stables and house with a small turning circle. Some trees are shown near the entrance drive, with possibly some shrubs around the pond. The barn is listed Grade II and described as a 16th century red brick barn with three gables on the south side. Much of the tree planting survives, plus the lawns to the south and west. A swimming pool has been placed on the north side.

Rettendon Rectory (Rettendon Parsonage), Rettendon: Grid Ref: TQ 781 964

Rettendon Rectory was used to house the rectors for the parish, in 1588 William Bingham, in 1873-9 Revd. J W Wand. In 1777 Chapman and André's map depicts small formal gardens lying to the south and west of the house. By the 2nd edition ordnance survey map of 1896 the grounds are informal in style with carriage entrance/exit, a pond or other feature close to the entrance, a pump, outbuildings, tree belt around all but the east side, a lawn to the west and a shrubbery to the west of the main lawn. A lodge is at the entrance from the road.

Sandon Rectory, Sandon: Grid Ref: TL 742 046

Sandon Rectory is Grade II* listed and is a good mid eighteenth century red brick house with later additions and alterations: it was newly fronted in 1768. In 1610 a 'large parsonage' stood on or near the same site – it had two outhouses, a barn, a stable, a hay house, a garden, two orchards, all of which covered two acres. There was also nineteen acres of glebe. The Sandon Design Statement quotes that the current Old Rectory was sold in 1963 and a new one came into use nearby. The drive to Sandon Rectory culminates in a circular gravel sweep to the house, separated from fenced paddock by a low hedge. In the 1980's the principal gardens lay to the south of the house and from a paved terrace to spreading lawns surrounded by mature trees which were complemented by an area of rhododendrons, shrub and herbaceous borders. At that time, in the extreme south east corner, was a water garden flanked by bulrushes.

The Plantation, Mill Road, Stock: Grid Ref: TQ 702 984

The Plantation is thought to be the first organic orchard in Essex in the 1950's. The owners travelled all over Britain selling their organic healthy produce. Following the sale of the site in the twenty-first century tree preservation orders were placed on the fruit trees. The orchard is at the far end of the site and the rest of the site has been redeveloped to accommodate one large house.

Tofts, Little Baddow: Grid Ref: TL 784 082

Tofts is a 19th century gault brick house, most likely built after the death of William Strutt in 1844. This is presumed to have replaced an older house on the site shown on the map of 1677 and owned by the Barrington family. The 17th century map indicates little in the way of gardens and not much had changed in Chapman and André's map of 1777. The 19th century house is shown on the first edition ordnance survey map of 1875 as surrounded by a series of small compartmented areas which included tree lined areas, water features/ponds and probably small gardens. During the war Tofts was taken over by the American Soldiers.

The current layout varies from that shown on the 1875 map: the present owners having restored and developed the gardens.

Walters Cottage, Little Baddow: Grid Ref: TL 779 081

Walters Cottage is a Grade II listed eighteenth century brick house now whitewashed. The house was first called 'Holthouse', then 'Watts' and, for a short time, 'Hill House' prior to the present name of 'Walters Cottage'. Early in the C18 the house was rebuilt, partly around the timber frame of the old house and in the 1770's it was described as a 'Genteel Modern built brick house with a good garden and pleasantly situated.' In 1783 Lord Barrington sold the freehold to John Strutt of Terling Place and his descendants owned the house until 1916. During this time there was a succession of tenants. 1805 James Livermore leased Walters for twenty-one years and agreed that he would 'at all times succour and preserve all the Poplar trees, ornamental trees, timber trees, fruit trees, plants and shrubs growing in the garden'. The current owners have developed the garden over the past sixty years.

Walthambury, Great Waltham: Grid Ref: TL 688 141

Walthambury is a Grade II timber-framed and plastered house of 16th century origin, but greatly altered, particularly in the C18. It is now a farmhouse. In the late 18th and 19th centuries the site included several fishponds in a rough north-south line to the east of the house itself. The largest of these had a sluice at the south end. At the end of the nineteenth century these ponds dominated the site and were fed by a small stream running north from the Walthambury Brook. These are most probably historic fishponds relating to the early use of the house/site.

West Hanningfield Rectory, West Hanningfield: Grid Ref: TQ 731 996

In the 18th century the Rectory was referred to as the Parsonage. By the end of the 19th century the second edition ordnance survey map shows the Rectory set in around four acres including mixed planting to the front, abutting the road, and a small area of possibly orchard or other deciduous trees to the south, divided from lawned area with unusual large oblong pond. Modern aerial photography appears to indicate that this lawned area to the east is now in separate hands as there is a separate house shown on the site. The pond and lawn area survive

Woodhill House, Danbury: Grid Ref: TL 767 045

Woodhill House is Grade II listed eighteenth century brick house with extensive later eighteenth century, mid nineteenth century and late nineteenth century extensions on the north and south ends. Mr Samuel Charles Carne lived in Woodhill House from 1771. This distinguished Danbury family occupied the house for over 200 years. The front of the house was originally the back of the building with a tree-lined drive leading to the front door. It is believed that recently the old trees in this drive have been replaced with some newly planted oaks. The gardens lie to the rear of the house and are mainly laid to sweeping lawn. During the Napoleonic War, officers of the West Essex Militia lived in the house and Colonel Charles Carne, who owned the house, was their commanding officer. French prisoners of war were used to dig out the large attractive pond at the rear of the house: they also built the large brick wall in the garden.

Writtle Park House, Highwood: Grid Ref: TL 649 038

Writtle Park is an early medieval deer park with most of its boundaries preserved by features in the modern landscape. The house, whose position is consistent with the site of a medieval parker's lodge, was rebuilt by the Petre family after their acquisition of the park in the 16th century. There were extensive fish ponds to the east of the house in the 18th century, and a formal garden between the pond and the house in the 19th century. Writtle Park house is listed Grade II and was originally a 16th century courtyard house which was very much altered in the 18th century. Its dovecote is also listed Grade II and is possibly the only remaining circular dovecote in Essex. The dovecote is 18th century and built in red brick, possibly on earlier Tudor foundations, and stands alone in the middle of a field.